

## The Superior Love of Jesus Christ

*Just as a father loves his children. So, the Lord loves those who fear and worship Him [with awe-filled respect and deepest reverence.] For He knows our [mortal] frame; He remembers that we are [merely] dust. Psalms 103:13-14*

This verse tells us the importance God places on family and Christian education.

- So, the definition of real love is first introduced to children by their parents or legal guardians.
- As adults we can struggle to embrace God's tender mercies for us if our parents did not model it in a Biblical way.
- This now affects the way we love each other and deal with our relationship conflicts as adults.
- The difficulty with the subject of transferring love as parents to our children lies in our understanding of God's definitions of love and the word "PITY".
- Our Western world admires words like mercy.
- Ancient Rome did not share our admiration. Romans spoke of four cardinal virtues: wisdom, justice, temperance, and courage—but not mercy. The Interpreter's Bible states that the Romans despised pity!
- The Greeks held similar views, thinking that mercy indicated weakness rather than strength. Aristotle wrote that pity was a troublesome emotion.
- Even in America, the word pity can be a word with a shameful connotation to the handicap who say don't pity me. Some of them will tell you, "I will open my own door or I will do what I need to do without your help thank you very much." Too often people look at the word pity as a demeaning and grading attitude towards them.

**God's definition of pity is not like man's definition. God's definition of pity comes from his Superior love by Calvary.**

- God's pity comes from His sinless Holy nature.
- This is why we have a brazen altar in the tabernacle of Moses.
- God's nature knows no sin.
- He is holy and superior in all of His ways.
- The brazen altar reminds us of the wages of sin.
- It reminds us of the consequences of our conduct when we break His laws or the laws of the land.
- The brazen altar is the first piece of furniture we see in the prayer plan of God.

- So, repentance is the difference between Godly pity and self-pity.
- Self-pity leads us to justifying wrong conduct.
- Self-pity causes us to reject God's pity.
- So, the first piece of furniture in the tabernacle is the brazen altar.
- But the last piece of furniture is the mercy seat.
- This denotes Gods mercy and pity for mankind.
- Calvary shows us both the mercy seat and the brazen altar in the character of Jesus Christ.
- King David
- We can only appreciate God's pity when we fully understand the fear of God's commandments and laws.
- God's pity should increase the fear of God in us and the obedience to His word because of the terribleness of His Holiness that produces justice and judgment.
- God shows GREAT PITY on King David in 1 Chron. 21:15(Show verse 15-18 on overhead).
- God stops the plague at a place called Ornan's threshing floor.
- This was the place of Calvary where Jesus died.

So, if I cannot receive God's pity for my failures and my shortcomings personally, I will not show pity and compassion to my spouse, my children, and members of the community.

- This all starts with Christian education.
- Parents are to model Biblical pity to their children if they are to grow up and demonstrate love to their spouses, their family members, and the community at large.
- I grew up never seeing pity afforded to me.
- My father spanked me with an extension cord.
- I never knew what it was like for a Dad or Mom to cut me slack and show compassion for me when I felt like I was failing with life itself.

- So, when I came to know Christ, in a born again experience, I could only love people through hard rules and inflexible standards.
- I thrived in relationships that were goal driven.
- I used religion like a hammer of systems and doctrines only to define love.

**Children must experience real Biblical pity from the home in order to function in real love as adults:**

1. This means as parents and adults working with children we cannot show resentment and withdrawal from them when they fail us.
2. We cannot be ill willed and cold to them when they fail to meet our expectations or they will reject God's love as adults.
3. For example, if you spank a child wrongly with anger and physical abuse to their body the child will grow up feeling God will treat them the same way.
4. This causes emotional separation from a spouse as adults when you feel you have failed your spouse.
5. Yelling, name calling, and constant critical words to a child guarantees they will grow up to struggle with emotional and spiritual intimacy with other adults.
6. To pity a child means fostering a home and climate of warmth and closeness, even in failures.
7. To pity a child also means practicing consistent Biblical principles of discipline and correction with godly compassion.
8. This causes children to grow up having self-confidence and feeling good about themselves.

**Biblical pity is God's love for you in a personal way:**

- It gives you permission to receive love from God when you have failed Him.
- It gives you permission to love yourself when you have failed your own expectations.

- God's pity releases His love and tangible affection to your emotions, mind, and will causing you to accept His discipline and correction.
- All because you trust the One spanking you.
- God's pity teaches you how to receive correction.
- So now we trust God's discipline when He allows pain into our lives to correct us.
- Now you can give affection to your spouse and children.
- All because of the pity of the Lord.
- Biblical pity empowers us to excel beyond our capabilities.
- Because our confidence in ourselves comes from the pity and compassion of the Lord.

**Calvary's love represents Gods greatest act of pity towards the human race:**

1. Jesus has come close to you today having great compassion even while you are wrestling with imperfections.
2. He is waiting in pity and patience for some of us to call our behavior sin in His eyes.
3. Then through repentance He releases pity and compassion like the story of the prodigal son.
4. Jesus said you must be born again of the water and spirit to enter the Kingdom of Heaven in John chapter three.
5. God's pity requires a response because of His justice and judgment towards man's sinful nature.
6. God's pity is satisfied when we respond with repentance and worship.
7. With faith in His compassionate love to change the direction and mind sets we have.
8. We believe receiving the indwelling spirit of God is our response to God's pity.
9. Water baptism, in Jesus name, is embracing Gods' covenant through His pity and desire to fellowship with us.
10. Responding to God's pity is releasing praise and worship to this God who pities us in a godly way.
11. Let's read ***Psalms 103*** starting at verse 7 together.

**6 The Lord executes righteousness and justice [not for me only, but] for all who are oppressed.**

**7 He made known His ways [of righteousness and justice] to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.**

**8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy and loving-kindness. [James 5:11.]**

**9 He will not always chide or be contending, neither will He keep His anger forever or hold a grudge.**

**10 He has not dealt with us after our sins nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.**

**11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great are His mercy and loving-kindness toward those who reverently and worshipfully fear Him.**

**12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us;**

**13 As a father loves and pities his children, so the Lord loves and pities those who fear Him [with reverence, worship, and awe].**

**14 For He knows our frame, He [earnestly] remembers and imprints [on His heart] that we are dust.**

**15 As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes.**

**16 For the wind passes over it and it is gone, and its place shall know it no more.**

**17 But the mercy and loving-kindness of the Lord are from everlasting to everlasting upon those who reverently and worshipfully fear Him, and His righteousness is to children's children—[Deut. 10:12.]**

**18 To such as keep His covenant [hearing, receiving, loving, and obeying it] and to those who [earnestly] remember His commandments to do them [imprinting them on their hearts].**

**19 The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all.**

**20 Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His commandments, hearkening to the voice of His word.**

**21 Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, all you His hosts, you His ministers who do His pleasure.**

**22 Bless the Lord, all His works in all places of His dominion; bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, O my soul!**

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