

Cultivating an Impactful Christian Culture, Part 8: Mercy

Romans 15:8-13

May 8, 2022

Emphasis: Christian unity is possible because all Christians share the common bond of mercy.

Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

-Luke 6:36

1. Mercy prevents us from getting what we deserve

References:

*He or she who is a son or daughter of Adam had a **corrupt** origin. As we all came from that source, **we are all corrupt**. Do not ever say of anybody, "That person is too bad for me to do anything with him." It is the genius of Christianity to select the worst first, and we should never regard any man as utterly hopeless until he is dead. As long as the breath is in his body, even if all the devils from hell were also in him, there is enough power in the Lord Jesus Christ to make the whole troop of them fly, and it is for us to attack those devils in his name. **Jesus Christ having saved us, the salvation of other sinners must be possible.***

-C.H. Spurgeon

¹⁸ *...**you were ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but **with the precious blood of Christ**, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

-1 Peter 1:18-19

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that **all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin**, ¹⁰ as it is written:

**“None is righteous, no, not one;
¹¹ no one understands;
no one seeks for God.**

¹² **All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one.”**

-Romans 3:9-12

For the wages of sin is **death**...

-Romans 6:23

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! **According to his great mercy**, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

-1 Peter 1:3

2. Mercy affords us what we **do not** deserve

References:

*I consider myself as the most wretched of men, full of sores and corruptions, and as one who has committed all sorts of crimes against his King; moved with deep sorrow, I confess to Him all my wickedness, I ask His forgiveness, I abandon myself in His hands, that He may do with me what He pleases. This King, **full of mercy and goodness**, very far from chastising me, **embraces me with love, makes me to eat at His***

table, serves me with His own hands, gives me the key of His treasures; He converses and delights Himself with me unceasingly, in a thousand and a thousand ways, and treats me in all respects as His favorite.

-Brother Lawrence

“How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

-John 4:9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

-Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.”

¹⁰ And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹ And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,

and **let all the peoples** extol him.”

¹² And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule **the Gentiles**;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

-Romans 15:8-12

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and power by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ **But God, being rich in mercy,** because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—** ⁶ **and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,** ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show **the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

-Ephesians 2:1-7

¹⁷ **For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.**

-John 3:17

3. Mercy helps us see others with the eyes of Jesus

References:

⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

-Romans 15:8-9

...whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

-James 4:4c

...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

-Matthew 20:28

“Neither do I condemn you,” said Jesus. “Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.”

-John 8:11 (CSB)

Conclusion and Application:

The whole Scriptures speak of mercifulness and love; and it is the only sign whereby a true Christian may be known.

-Menno Simons

May we choose to be known by our love and mercy!

