

Finding Your Place: Mercy

Romans 12:5-6,8 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (6) We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift... is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

1. Mercy begins with a change in attitude

Psalms 145:9 (NIV) The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Phillipians 2:2-5 (Msg) If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*— (2) then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. (3) Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. (4) Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. (5) Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

2. Mercy then flows from our relationship with God

Luke 6:36 (NIV) Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Psalms 103:8-13 (NIV) God is sheer mercy and grace; not easily angered, he's rich in love. (9) He doesn't endlessly nag and scold, nor hold grudges forever. (10) He doesn't treat us as our sins deserve, nor pay us back in full for our wrongs. (11) As high as heaven is over the earth, so strong is his love to those who fear him. (12) And as far as sunrise is from sunset, he has separated us from our sins. (13) As parents feel for their children, GOD feels for those who fear him.

3. The same mercy and grace we have been shown guides our own actions

James 2:13 (NIV) ...judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

Zechariah 7:9(NIV) Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.

Jude 1:22 (NIV) Be merciful to those who doubt;

Matthew 5:7 (NIV) Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.