> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?
> *— 1 John 3:17*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: compassion, love, materialism, money, neighbor

Interpretation:
In *1 John 3:17* we see a call to compassion and help for those in need. *The Apostle John* tells us that if we have material possessions and we see a brother or sister in need, but we close our hearts to them, we cannot say that God's love dwells in us. This message is a call to love and compassion for others, especially those who are less fortunate than us.

Why is it important to help those in need?

The Bible teaches us that our material possessions and the wealth we possess are not for our own benefit alone, but are to be shared with others.

Jesus tells us in *Luke 12:33, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys."* This verse shows us the importance of helping those in need.

Moreover, helping those in need is not only important because of the religious mandate, but also has a positive impact on our lives and our communities. By helping the less fortunate, we build a more just and equal society. We also develop our own empathy and compassion, as well as leadership and teamwork skills.

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> Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.
> *— 1 Peter 3:8*

Book: New Testament / 1 Peter
Topics: compassion, community, humility, neighbor

Interpretation:
1 Peter 3:8 is a call for unity in the Christian community. The apostle *Peter* witnessed the persecution that the early church suffered and knew that unity was essential to its survival and growth. He also knew that unity was an important part of the identity of followers *of Jesus Christ*. In this verse, Peter offers a list of qualities that believers must have in order to live in unity.

The importance of unity

Unity is essential to the church because unity is the evidence *of Christ's love* for the world. *Jesus* said, *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35)*. If Christians cannot love one another and live in unity, how can they hope to demonstrate the love of Christ to a lost world? Furthermore, unity is also essential to the spiritual growth of the individual. The Christian community is called to help each member grow spiritually and mature. Unity and brotherly love are fundamental to this process. Only when Christians live in harmony can they strengthen one another and grow together in faith.

List of qualities

In this verse, Peter offers a list of qualities necessary for living in unity. They are: like-mindedness, compassion, love for one another, kindness, and gentleness.

Like-mindedness - This refers to the need to be of one mind, to think consistently, and to be united in the truth of the gospel. This means that Christians must be willing to put aside personal differences and focus on what unites them: *their love for Christ and their commitment to His word*.

Compassion - This refers to the ability to feel empathy and understanding for others. It is necessary to feel the pain and joy of others as if they were our own. This may be difficult for some, but it is essential for living in harmony.

Brotherly love - This love for other believers is crucial to unity. This love goes beyond superficial affection and extends to caring for and being responsible for one another.

Mercy - This refers to the need to forgive others when they make mistakes or lack unity. Mercy shown in the church helps to build healthier relationships and restore harmony in society.

Kindness - This means a positive attitude and a willingness to help others at any time and under any circumstances. Kindness helps others feel welcome and safe in society.

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> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.
>
> *— 2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

Book: New Testament / 2 Corinthians
Topics: compassion, Comforter, courage, encouragement, suffering, worship

Interpretation:
The verses *2 Corinthians 1:3-4* praise God as *the Father* of our *Lord Jesus Christ*. This means that God is our spiritual Father and Jesus Christ is *His Son*, therefore, both God and Jesus Christ are one and the same divine being. This is one of the most important teachings of the Christian faith, which shows us the union between God and Jesus Christ and teaches us that we can have a close relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

The Father of mercy

The verses mention that God is the Father of Mercy, which means that God is a merciful and compassionate God who is willing to forgive our sins and give us His grace. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, taught us love and compassion, so we can be sure that our *Heavenly Father* will love us and guide us at all times. This is a comforting truth that encourages us to seek God’s mercy in our lives and ask Him for help and guidance during difficult times.

The God of all comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3 also introduces God as *“the God of all comfort.”* This means that God is our comforter in times of pain and suffering. In times of loss, illness, or grief, we can seek comfort and

support from our heavenly Father, who loves and knows each of us personally. He gives us His peace, His love, and His comfort to help us overcome any difficult situation that may arise in life.

Sharing comfort

2 Corinthians 1:4 says that God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those who are going through difficult times. That is, because of the comfort we receive from God in times of trouble, we can give comfort and support to those in need.

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> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
> *— Colossians 3:12*

Book: New Testament / Colossians
Topics: compassion, clothing, gentleness, humility, patience

Interpretation:
Colossians 3:12 is a beautiful verse that encourages believers to put on the qualities needed for the Christian life. Paul, the writer of this letter, encourages us to put on "as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved." This means that as followers *of Christ*, we are to live lives that reflect our identity as children of God.

The importance of mercy

One of the qualities mentioned in this verse is mercy. For many, being merciful can be difficult because it involves forgiving those who have hurt us. But it is important to remember that God is merciful to us and calls us to be merciful. When we forgive and show mercy, we demonstrate God's love for others.

The value of humility

Another quality mentioned in the verse is humility. It is easy to be tempted to become proud and think that we are better than others. However, humility helps us to realize that everything we have was given to us as a gift from God. When we are humble, we accept our dependence on God and are

willing to serve others.

Patience and gentleness

Patience and gentleness are qualities that are often seen as weaknesses in our society. But in the Christian life, they are essential. Patience gives us the strength to overcome difficult times, and gentleness helps us channel our energy effectively and peacefully. Together, these qualities enable us to be true agents of change in the world.

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> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
> *— Ephesians 4:32*

Book: New Testament / Ephesians
Topics: compassion, Forgiveness, goodness, reconciliation

Interpretation:
Ephesians 4:32 is a Bible verse that tells us about the importance of being kind, merciful, and forgiving. It tells us that we are to treat others the same way God treated us *in Christ*, forgiving us and giving us His love and grace.

What does it mean to be kind?

Being kind means being kind, compassionate, and altruistic toward others. It is an effort to serve and seek the welfare of others without expecting anything in return. To be kind, we must set aside our selfishness and selfish needs and put the interests of others above our own. Kindness involves acting lovingly and generously at all times, even in difficult or painful situations.

What does it mean to be merciful?

Being merciful means showing compassion and empathy toward others, even when they have made mistakes or sinned. Mercy involves forgiving and showing unconditional love to our neighbors, even when they have done wrong.

By showing mercy, we follow the example of God, who forgave and loved us despite our mistakes and sins. Mercy is an act of divine love that should be shown to everyone, no matter who they are or what they have done.

What does it mean to forgive?

Forgiveness is releasing the grudges and resentments we hold toward others, releasing all the bitterness and resentment in our hearts. By forgiving, we free our souls and allow ourselves to move on with our lives without the burden of resentment.

It is an act of love that helps us cultivate reconciliation and peace in our personal relationships. By forgiving others, we also free them and allow them to move on with their own lives.

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> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.
> *— Hebrews 4:15*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: compassion, sin, temptation, weakness

Interpretation:
Hebrews 4:15 speaks of the person *of Jesus Christ* as the High Priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses, having been in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. In this statement, the Bible shows us *Jesus* as a compassionate leader who understands and empathizes with our struggles and temptations.

How can we apply this verse to our lives?

It is important to remember that in life we ??all face difficult situations and temptations that can lead us to sin. But this passage encourages us to trust that *Jesus, our High Priest*, understands our pain and can help us overcome our weaknesses. We can turn to Him at any time, knowing that He not only understands us, but can help us overcome any obstacle.

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> Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!
>
> — *Isaiah 30:18*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: compassion, grace, mercy, patience, righteousness

Interpretation:
Isaiah 30:18 speaks of God's patience and mercy. Despite our mistakes and sins, God is always ready to forgive us and patiently waits to show us mercy. Through divine justice, God grants us His mercy, and those who trust in Him will be blessed.

Reflecting on the verse

When faced with difficulties and trials, it's easy to fall into despair and fear. However, *Isaiah 30:18* reminds us that God is always there and always shows us His mercy and compassion. We can be confident that God will not abandon us and is always ready to forgive if we seek His love and guidance.

This verse also calls us to trust in God and believe in His justice. God is just and merciful, and He will help us overcome any adversity we face. We must learn to trust Him and remain faithful to Him even in difficult times.

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> Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have

> engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.
> — *Isaiah 49:15-16*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: compassion, children, family, love

Interpretation:
One of the most touching and revealing biblical passages is found in *Isaiah 49:15-16*. In this passage, God speaks to His people through the prophet *Isaiah*, using a powerful metaphor that illustrates divine unconditional love, faithfulness, and mercy.

The love and care of our Heavenly Father

The verses begin with a rhetorical question: Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? And the answer is obvious, because a mother's love is such a deep and ingrained instinct that it is impossible to forget a child.

However, God goes further and says that even if a mother forgets her child, He will never forget us. This is an expression of His unconditional love and His role as a loving Father.

This passage deeply comforts and encourages, especially those who feel lonely, abandoned, or hopeless. Knowing that God never leaves us, never forgets us, and always loves us, no matter what, is a truth that fills us with strength and confidence. It is a reminder that no matter how much time passes or how many difficulties we endure, God is with us and holds us in His arms.

The metaphor of the palms of hands

The image of God holding us in the palms of His hands is one of the most comforting in the Bible. This metaphor implies that we are important to God, that He knows us thoroughly, and that we are safe in His loving arms.

The sculpted hand symbolizes that God created us in His image and that we are made for His purpose. The fact that God holds our walls before Him speaks of His constant presence and His eternal protection.

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> “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.
>
> — *Isaiah 54:10*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: compassion, covenant, love, peace, reliability, trust

Interpretation:
Isaiah 54:10 is a verse that speaks of God's unwavering promise. It assures us that even if the mountains move and the hills tremble, God's mercy will never depart from us, and His covenant of peace will never be broken. This promise is a reminder of God's everlasting love and His commitment to us.

What does God's mercy mean?

God's mercy is a recurring theme in the Bible. It refers to the compassion and kindness God shows His children, even when we don't deserve it. God's mercy is not simply a favor He shows us; it stems from His love and compassion. That's why *Isaiah 54:10* says that the promise of God's mercy will never be revoked.

The peace that comes from God

Peace is also an important theme in the Bible. The peace that comes from God is unlike any other peace the world can offer. This is a peace that surpasses all understanding. In this verse, God assures us that His covenant of peace will never be broken. This means we can trust God in any circumstance and be confident that He will provide us with the peace we need.

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> Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
>
> — *Lamentations 3:22-23*

Book: Old Testament / Lamentations

Topics: compassion, faithfulness, love, reliability

Interpretation:
The verse tells us about the *mercy of God* and its great importance in our lives. The word "mercy" comes from the Latin "misericordia", which means compassion, kindness, mercy, and goodwill. *God's mercy* is the manifestation of His unconditional love for us, a help and guide in difficult times. This divine mercy has allowed us to live a better life and not be consumed by the evil that haunts us daily.

The first verse of this passage from Lamentations emphasizes the *constant presence of God's mercy in our lives*. The Bible emphasizes that God's mercies never fail, meaning they are always available and accessible to us at all times. Even if it seems like God is not listening to our prayers or you have lost faith, His mercy is still constant and waiting to be revealed.

The second verse of this passage tells us that *God is ever faithful, trustworthy, steadfast, and unwavering*, because faithfulness is one of His essential attributes. Faithfulness is an integral part of who He is *(Psalm 90:8; Hebrews 13:8)*. In His faithfulness, God protects us from evil (*2 Thessalonians 3:3)*, sets limits to our temptations *(1 Corinthians 10:13)*, forgives us of our sins *(1 John 1:9)*, and sanctifies us *(1 Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 1:6)*.

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> You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.
> *— Micah 7:19*

Book: Old Testament / Micah
Topics: compassion, Forgiveness, sin

Interpretation:
Micah 7:19 is part of the final chapter of the book *of Micah*, where the prophet describes the moral corruption and idolatry of the people of Judah. ??Despite the prophet's warnings, the people of Judah persisted in their wickedness and eventually fell into the hands of the Assyrians and Babylonians. However, in the final verses, Micah offers words of comfort and hope for the future.

Micah assures the people of Judah that God will once again have mercy on them despite their sins and shortcomings. The prophet uses a powerful image to describe divine forgiveness: God will bury all

the iniquities of the people.

The highlight of this verse is that God will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea, meaning that they will never be remembered or spoken of again. In short, Micah assures the people of Judah that God is a God of mercy, offering redemption and forgiveness.

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> As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.
> — *Psalm 103:13*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: compassion, Father, fear, love

Interpretation:
Psalm 103 is a hymn of praise to God for His love and mercy toward His people. In *Psalm 103:13*, the psalmist compares God's mercy to a father's mercy toward his children. A father, like God, is tender and loving toward his children, and they are his greatest treasure.

What does it mean to have compassion?

Compassion means empathizing with another person's suffering and showing compassion toward them. Compassion is an act of love that moves us to empathize with the suffering of others and seek ways to help them.

God's compassion for His children

God is our Heavenly Father, and His love for us is boundless. He knows us better than anyone else and knows how much we need His love and protection. Despite our sins and imperfections, God has compassion on us and bestows His unconditional love upon us. He wants the best for us and cares for us like a loving father.

What does "the fear of God" mean?

Fearing God doesn't mean literally dreading Him, but rather experiencing awe and respect for His sovereignty and power. It means recognizing His authority over our lives and striving to keep His

commandments and follow His will.

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> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
>
> *— Romans 12:15*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: compassion, joy, sadness

Interpretation:
Empathy is the ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes and sympathize with them. It is one of the greatest qualities we can have in life and it allows us to better understand the world around you.

Empathy allows us to understand how others are feeling and how we can help them during difficult times. *Romans 12:15* reminds us to show sympathy and solidarity with others.

Rejoice with those who rejoice

When we see someone happy and joyful, we can share their joy, celebrate with them and be a part of their happiness. This allows us to connect with other people and helps us maintain a positive outlook on life. Sharing moments of joy with others strengthens our relationships and brings us closer to them.

Cry with those who cry

However, life is not always rosy. In many cases, we meet people who are going through difficult times. It can be anything from losing a job to losing a loved one. In such cases, it is important to show solidarity with them and demonstrate our understanding and support.

We must remember that crying is a natural and necessary process that allows us to release and release sadness. But we do not have to do it alone. By crying with those who are sad, we show them that they are not alone and that we are there to support them on their journey. This can be not only a form of emotional support, but also a form of healing.

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translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> I will strengthen Judah and save the tribes of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them.
> — *Zechariah 10:6*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: compassion, listening, Prayer, strength

Interpretation:
The Bible is a book full of divine teachings and promises, providing support at every moment of life and in every situation. One Old Testament verse that can be very helpful to us in these times is *Zechariah 10:6*.

Context of the verse

Zechariah wrote this book after the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity. The Jewish community was struggling to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and establish prosperity in their land. Zechariah serves as a prophet to encourage and exhort God's people not to lose hope.

Verse 6 follows a section in which God expresses His wrath against the unjust rulers of Jerusalem and the false prophets who deceived the community. But in this new verse, God reveals His merciful grace. He will strengthen and protect the house *of Judah* and the house *of Joseph*. He will bring them back to their land, no matter how long they have been in exile.

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> This is what the Lord Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.’
> — *Zechariah 7:9-10*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah

Topics: compassion, evil, gentleness, neighbor, righteousness, widows

Interpretation:
In *Zechariah 7:9-10*, we find a clear and compelling command. These verses call us to consider the importance of treating our neighbors fairly and kindly, regardless of their social status or background.

Judge by truth

Zechariah 7:9-10 begins directly with the divine command to be just. "Judge by truth" indicates that we must be fair and truthful in our decisions and judgments.

Truth plays a vital role in our lives, and it is important to always seek it in everything we do. It's easy to succumb to the temptation to bend the truth to suit our needs or desires, but truth must not be falsified. We must always seek the truth and make fair judgments.

Show mercy and compassion to one another

The verses continue with a call to be merciful and compassionate to our brothers and sisters. Here, the word "brother" refers to all people in general. We should be merciful to everyone, not just our closest ones.

Compassion and mercy are closely linked to love and empathy and are essential for a thriving society. We must be able to put ourselves in others' shoes and treat them with love and compassion.

What does it mean to oppress?

To better understand this commandment, it's important to understand the meaning of the word "oppress." According to the dictionary, oppress means "to unjustly subjugate, seriously disturb, cause distress, or upset." In other words, oppressing someone involves the unjust use of force and power over them, causing harm and suffering.

The importance of protecting the most vulnerable

Zechariah's commandment reminds us of the need to protect the most vulnerable members of our society: widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. These people often suffer the most from injustice and violence at the hands of those in power. Our duty as Christians is to care for them and ensure their rights are respected.

Furthermore, Zechariah doesn't limit himself to mentioning these specific groups of people; he also calls us not to entertain evil thoughts against our brothers and sisters. This means that we should not judge others or treat them poorly because of prejudice or malicious ideas.

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