



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Authentic Compassion

Passage: I John 4:7-21

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Wood

Introduction: We've all seen it—lives that seem too far gone, hearts too hardened, and situations too broken. But the truth is, God is always at work, even in the messiest of stories. Again and again, He steps into the darkest places and brings light, often in ways we never expect. And many times, He does it through someone who simply chooses to care. Someone who shows compassion when it's not easy, not convenient, and not always welcomed. Their kindness may go unnoticed by the world—but not by God.

Compassion has the power to crack through the hardest of hearts. It plants seeds when nothing seems to be growing. It reaches into places most would walk away from. And when it's genuine—when it's rooted in Christ—it reflects something far greater than ourselves.

Tonight, as we open God's Word, the Apostle John is going to challenge us to look deeper. He's going to show us that compassion isn't just a momentary feeling or a fleeting emotion—it's a lifestyle. It's a mark of true spiritual maturity. So the question before us is this: How can we develop real, lasting, authentic compassion in a world that so often teaches us to protect ourselves, preserve our comfort, and look the other way?

1. The Origin of Compassion (Verses 7-10)

A. Compassion Comes from God



SUNDAY EVENING AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Compassion doesn't come from us—it comes from God. He is the source, and we must return to Him continually to share it with others. When we try to serve in our own strength, we grow weary and frustrated, because only His love can sustain true compassion.

John 15:5 "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

B. God Sets the Standard

God defines love—not culture, not emotion. Though the world constantly tries to change the meaning of love and compassion, God's standard never changes. A lack of compassion reveals a lack of connection with Him. We can't excuse ourselves by saying it's just not our personality—because true compassion isn't natural, it's supernatural. If we want to make a lasting impact, we must follow God's design.

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

Malachi 3:6 "For I am the LORD, I change not..."

C. God's Compassion was Manifested in Christ

God's love is most clearly seen in the sacrificial gift of His Son. True compassion gives, even when it costs. It doesn't come naturally to us—but when we're saved, God gives us new life and the power of the Holy Spirit to live it out. If you're feeling frustrated, exhausted, or running on empty, it may be because you've drifted from the Source. It's time to return to God's design and draw from His strength.

Galatians 2:20b "...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

2. The Obligation of Compassion (Verses 11-16)



SUNDAY EVENING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

A. We Owe a Debt

We can't receive God's love and then withhold it from others. His compassion is for everyone, not just those we find easy to love. Holding grudges or picking and choosing who deserves our kindness goes against the very nature of His love. If God showed compassion to us despite our faults, we should reflect that same grace—even to the difficult ones.

B. We Have a Testimony

Compassion makes God visible to the world. Some believers can't help but share how God changed their lives—it overflows from them. That kind of eagerness should challenge all of us. When was the last time God's goodness couldn't be held in? Every follower of Christ is called to proclaim His love, not keep it to themselves.

Romans 10:14 "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

C. We Represent Christ

The Spirit confirms our relationship with God, and love is the visible evidence that He lives in us. Rather than making excuses for our behavior or inaction, we must take responsibility to reflect Christ in how we live. The world should see His love and compassion through us.

3. The Outworking of Compassion (Verses 17-21)

A. Love Gives Us Boldness

God's love gives us confidence, not fear—even in the day of judgment. When we reflect Christ, we find assurance in Him.



SUNDAY EVENING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

B. Love Casts Out Fear

God's love replaces fear with trust. As His compassion grows in us, fear loses its grip.

C. Love Produces Right Responses

We love because He first loved us. Real compassion flows from receiving God's love and responds with grace.

D. Love Controls Our Emotions

Love for God and hatred toward others cannot coexist. Real love brings our emotions under Christ's control and it shows in how we treat others.

Conclusion: Are you sharing the goodness of God with others—both believers and the lost? When someone is struggling, do you check on them? Do you notice when someone is missing, or has your compassion gone cold? Are you daily going back to the Source and letting His love refill and refresh you? Someone this week needs you to reflect Christ. Maybe it's a fellow church member who needs encouragement, a family member who needs kindness, or a lost coworker who needs hope. It's time to set aside selfishness and do what God has called us to do—show *Authentic Compassion*.



Bethany Baptist Church • 4402 40th Street • Lubbock, TX 79414
806.799.2464 • churchstillworks.org • Dan Preston, Pastor