

The Work of Mercy and Healing

The Heart of a Healer - Matthew 9:35-37

A Heart of Mercy - Matthew 9:9-13

A Heart for the Other - Luke 10:25-37

The Post-Fall World

A. Sin's Work of Separation

a. Alienation from Self

- i. Separation of the body from the soul/spirit.
- ii. Ignoring/minimizing the body

Undergirding the Bible's sexual morality is a remarkably high view of creation. When Paul argues against sexual immorality, how does he do it? By denigrating sexual pleasure? No, by elevating the body. "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Should I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!" (1 Cor. 6:15). Paul's rationale for sexual morality is that your body has the dignity of being a member of the body of Christ, the locus of his presence on earth. Paul then says something truly stunning: "Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 6:19). The temple was a sacred space, where people went to meet with God. Astonishingly, this passage is saying that your body is where people will meet God. And other people's bodies are where *you* will see God.

- Nancy Pearcey, Love Thy Body

Perhaps nothing sets it in contrast to medieval Christendom more than the Reformation's rejection of its denigration of the body. Within certain moral boundaries, the powers of the body were fully celebrated. Once again the old texts were allowed to sing. 'I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made,' says the Psalmist, who continues, 'Wonderful are thy works.' (Psalm 139:14) - Donn Welton

iii. Christ's Incarnation and Resurrection

b. Corruption of the Physical World

- i. Decay, sickness and death in nature

Indeed, the reason the fall is such a tragedy is precisely because humans have such high value to begin with. When a cheap trinket is broken, we toss it aside without a second thought. But when a priceless work of art is destroyed, we are heartbroken. The reason sin is so tragic is that it destroys a human being—a priceless masterpiece that reflects the character of the Supreme Artist. - Nancy Pearcey, Love Thy Body

- ii. Christ's work of mercy and healing
 - iii. Christianity's furtherance of Christ's work
- c. **Alienation** from **God**
 - i. Adam and Eve chose God's Knowledge over Knowing God
 - ii. Christ's work of mercy and healing
 - iii. The work of glorifying and exalting God
- d. **Erosion** of **Community**
 - i. Sin always **divides** us.
 - ii. Christ's example of bringing healing and mercy to **the other**.

"Jesus reversed the social priorities of his day by demonstrating and teaching special concern for the poor, the disabled, the outcast and the underprivileged. Such people had no claim to attention until Jesus became their champion....One cannot imagine Hippocrates showing much interest in a prostitute in trouble, a blind beggar, the slave of a soldier of the occupying power, a psychotic foreigner clearly with no money, an old woman with a chronic spinal condition. Jesus not only did so, he expected his followers to do the same." - *Dr. Frank Davey*

- iii. **Dangerous Unselfishness** - the **fields** are **ripe** for **harvest**!

B. The **Command** of Scripture

- a. Ask God for His Mercy and Healing in your life
- b. **Ask** and **Look** for those in need of Mercy and Healing
- c. Be Obedient! - Exercise **Dangerous Unselfishness**!

Forget trying to decide who qualifies for you to love them, and demonstrate love without qualification. - *John MacArthur*

C. The **Opportunity** for **Impact**

Christians love those who hate them just as the soul loves the body and all its members despite the body's hatred. It is by the soul, enclosed within the body, that the body is held together, and similarly, it is by the Christians, detained in the world as in a prison, that the world is held together. The soul, though immortal, has a mortal dwelling place; and Christians also live for a time amidst perishable things, while awaiting the freedom from change and decay that will be theirs in heaven. As the soul benefits from the deprivation of food and drink, so Christians flourish under persecution. Such is the Christian's lofty and divinely appointed function, from which he is not permitted to excuse himself. - *Letter to Diognetus*

The Healing and Mercy of Communion

Kelly's SERMON SLIDES
10/12/25

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