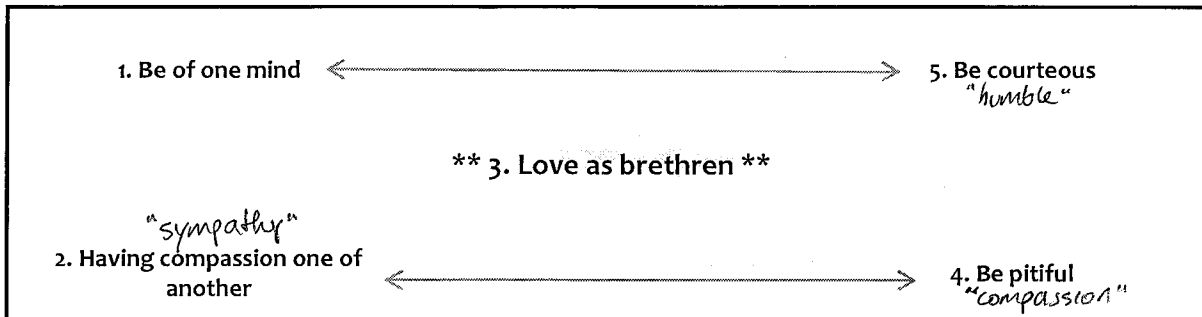


Session 3: As You Like It?—Relating to Others By Imitating the Example of Christ

1 Peter 3:8

Kerry McGonigal, Wilds College & Career Retreat, Fall 2011



1. As children of God, we should share the same mindset. (#1+5 above)

a. By refusing to equate unity with unanimity / uniformity in all points.

b. By sharing the same source of teaching. (Acts 2:42; Col. 3:15-16)
* The Word of Christ

c. By sharing the same example. (Phil. 2:5; 1 Pt. 2:21; 4:1)

* Jesus Christ... the mindset of humble ministry

→ This is the mindset we should share b/c our leader had it.

d. By rejecting the contemporary spirit of individualism. (Phil. 2:4)

This is NOT the way the church of Christ is supposed to work. We can't come in + out of our relationship w/ Christ; therefore we can't do that w/ those who are in Christ.

- "networked individualism"
- * we chose our groups / communities / network
 - * It's just information, not meaningful interaction
 - * We can control those groups by deleting, removing, blocking, defriending, etc.

2. As children of God, we should share in the same experiences. (#2+4 above)

Feel w/
others.

a. By endeavoring to see life from the viewpoint of others. Rom. 12:15
(Phil. 2:4) I have to get my view off myself to sympathize. Ex. 2 Pt. 3:7

b. By sacrificially reaching out to meet the needs of others.
* Active * move beyond sympathetic thoughts (words of compassion) + add in works of compassion (cf. James 2)
* SELF-sacrificial

* d. By rehearsing our own experience of God's compassion.
GOSPEL

e. By imitating the example of our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ.
* He is no longer here to do this; He has entrusted the meeting of needs to us.

3. As children of God, we share the same family. (#3 above)

* This is the source or spring from w/c #1+2 flow: We must have a natural family affection.
a. Because we have the same Father.
(2 Pt. 1:3) We must understand our family connection.

b. By means of the new birth.
(2 Pt. 1:3; John. 1:12) — so, not only vertical family relationships, but horizontal, as well.

c. Regardless of our own personal preferences.
* like our physical family, we didn't get to chose our spiritual family. → but God was wise and purposeful in His choosing.
2 Cor. 1:26-31

Conclusion

As children of God we should share the same mindset and share in the same experiences because we share the same family.

Love = this is our distinguishing dress (Jn. 13:35)