

Compassion:

A feeling of kindness
and mercy



We serve a God of *compassion*! We see His compassion throughout the Bible; James 5:11 tells us that “The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.” God feels kindness and mercy towards mankind, even when people do wrong. Yet, how much compassion do we see in the world around us today? We see - and experience - mostly hate, anger, and bitterness. Biblical compassion means tenderness, affection, goodwill, or to share the sufferings of. It is a *feeling*, but that feeling reflects the attitude of a person toward another or others. One writer says that ‘compassion is literally a feeling with and for others, a fundamental and distinctive quality of God.’

Marriage should be *the* place where people experience compassion! Marriage is supposed to be an earthly representation of the *very nature of God* (see Genesis 1:26 and Ephesians 5:32). Yet, so often, we see disdain, even hatred in marriage and often, selfishness beyond belief! Friends, this should not be so. Paul wrote in Colossians 3:12 that we are to *put on* compassion. Not just compassion for the hurting, the poor, or the sick, but compassion for our husband or wife. That putting on is like putting on a jacket; it is a conscious decision we make. Humility is required for compassion; not thinking we are better than our spouse or that their sin is worse than ours. Again, compassion must be a part of the marriage relationship; as another writer stated, ‘for a marriage to thrive with love, compassion must be an ongoing part of the relationship.’

Is compassion; that feeling of kindness and mercy toward your spouse a part of your marriage? Does your spouse *know* that you are there for him or her? Do you give them the benefit of the doubt and clarify rather than make assumptions? Do you put your spouse first? Before family, friends, hobbies, job, or ministry? What can *you* do to be compassionate toward your spouse? #

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com*

A huge part of being compassionate of your spouse is *knowing* him or her. Our website provides a lot of great tools to help *any* couple get to know each other better. I didn’t find a lot of *Christian* information about compassion in marriage. Here is the link to one article by a couple with a real heart for helping couples:

Being Kind and Compassionate in Marriage -
www.buildyourmarriage.org/being-kind-and-compassionate-in-marriage