



Doing Good to All People

The Crucial Role of Compassion Ministry in a Congregation's
Plans to Reach the Community

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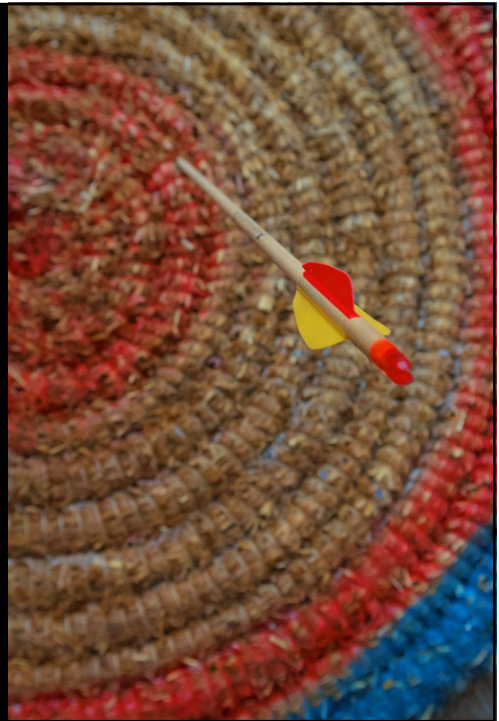


Our Plan

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Our goals

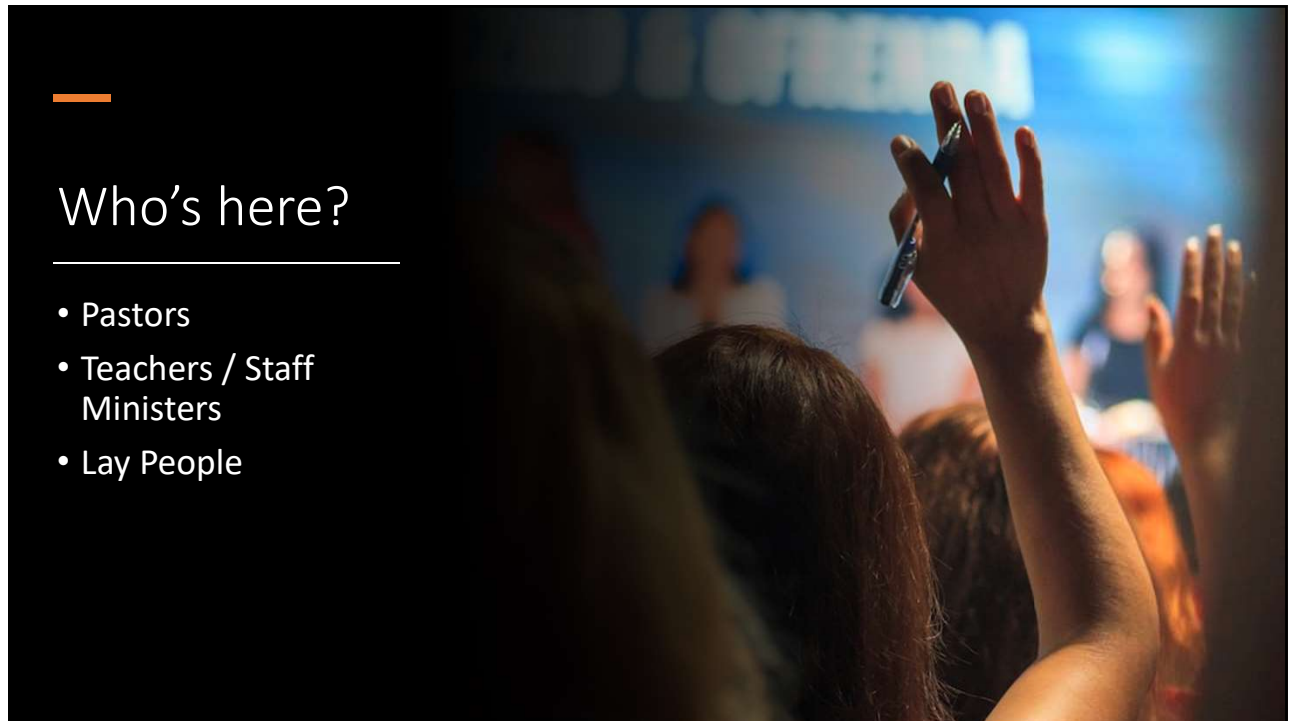
1. That everyone better understands *the why* of compassion ministry.
2. That everyone comes away with *ideas and encouragement* for compassion ministry in their congregations.



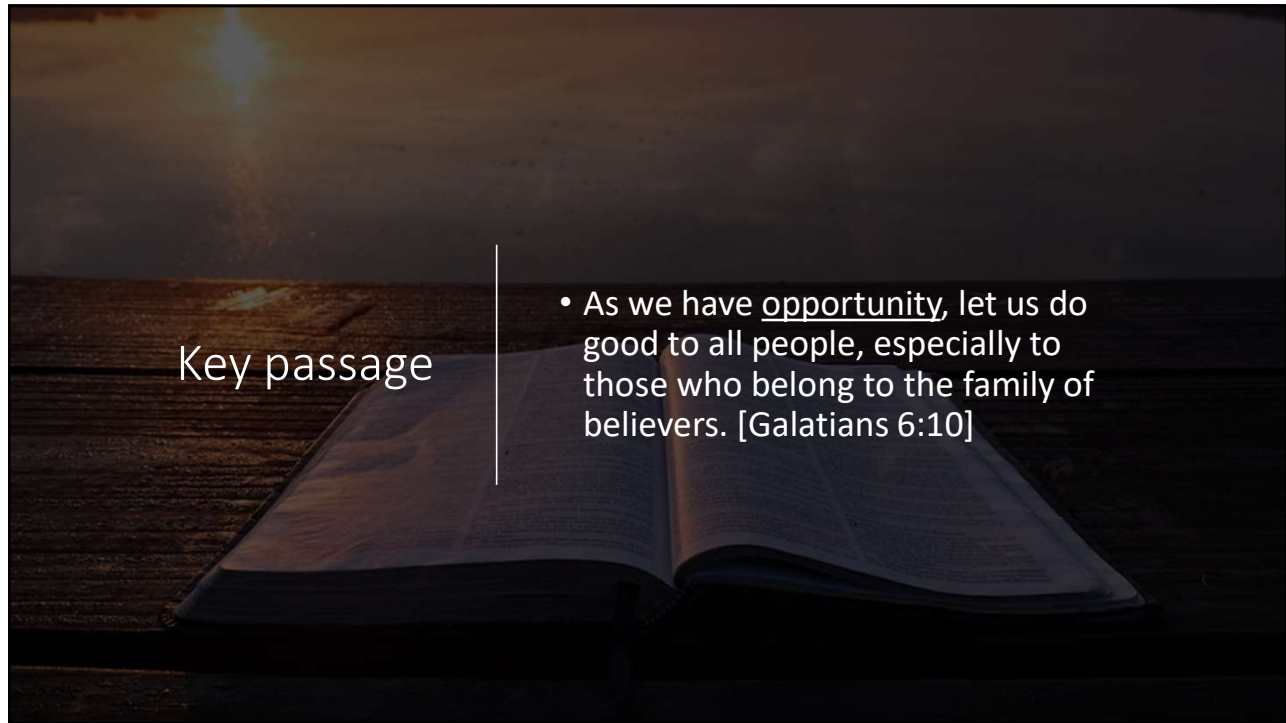
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Who's here?

- Pastors
- Teachers / Staff Ministers
- Lay People



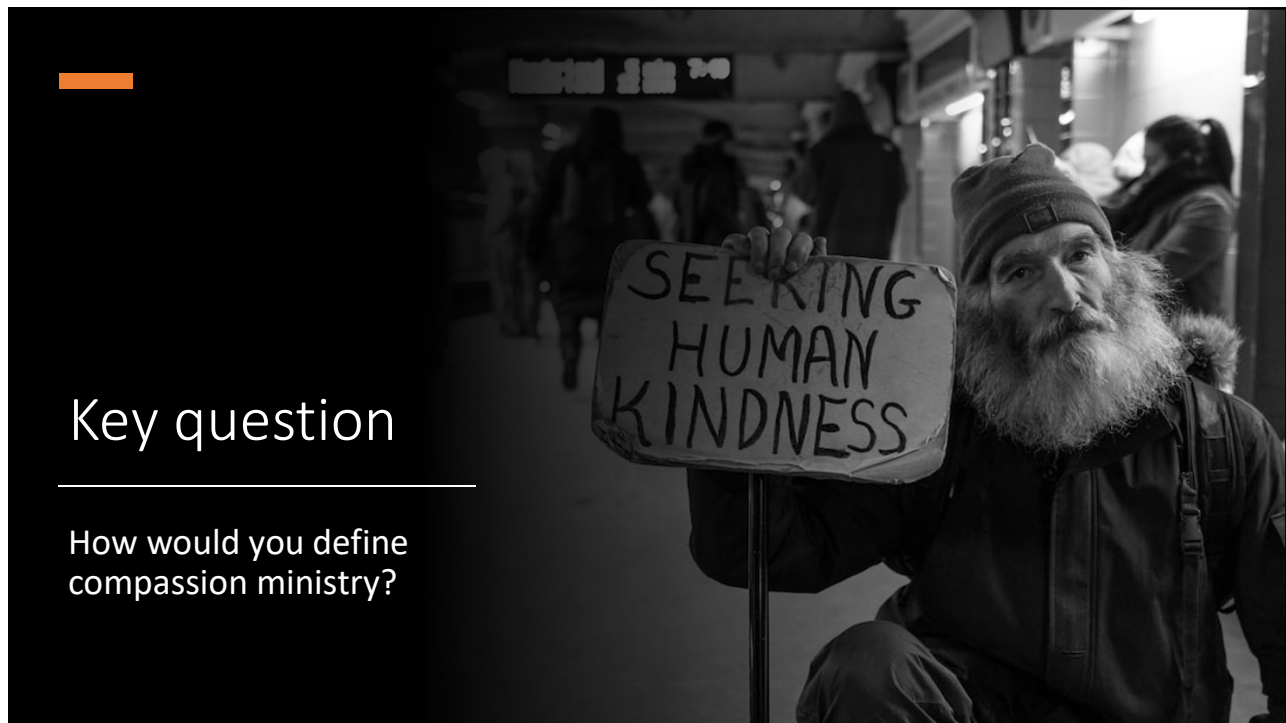
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Key passage

- As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. [Galatians 6:10]

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Key question

How would you define compassion ministry?

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Compassion ministry

- Any effort, in the name of Jesus, to help those who are hurting with their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

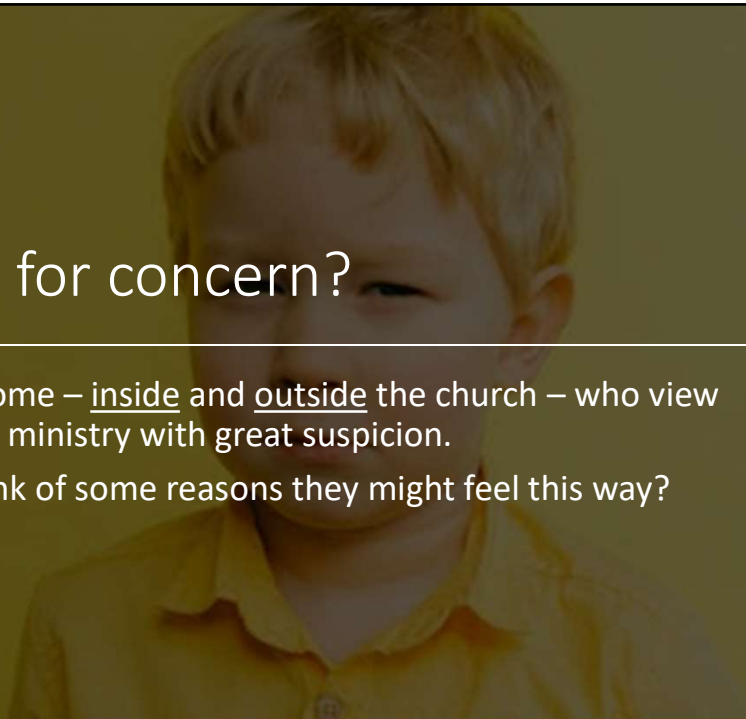


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A cause for concern?

- There are some – inside and outside the church – who view compassion ministry with great suspicion.
- Can you think of some reasons they might feel this way?



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A photograph of a small, blue, wooden church with a steeple. The church is set against a backdrop of dark, misty mountains. The church has a simple design with arched windows and a central entrance. A blue banner with white text is overlaid on the image.

Key Question

- Agree or disagree and why? Compassion ministry – helping our neighbor with his needs – is part of the church's mission.

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Compassion commanded

- “If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.” [Isaiah 58:10]



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Compassion commanded

- 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? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. [1 John 3:17-18]



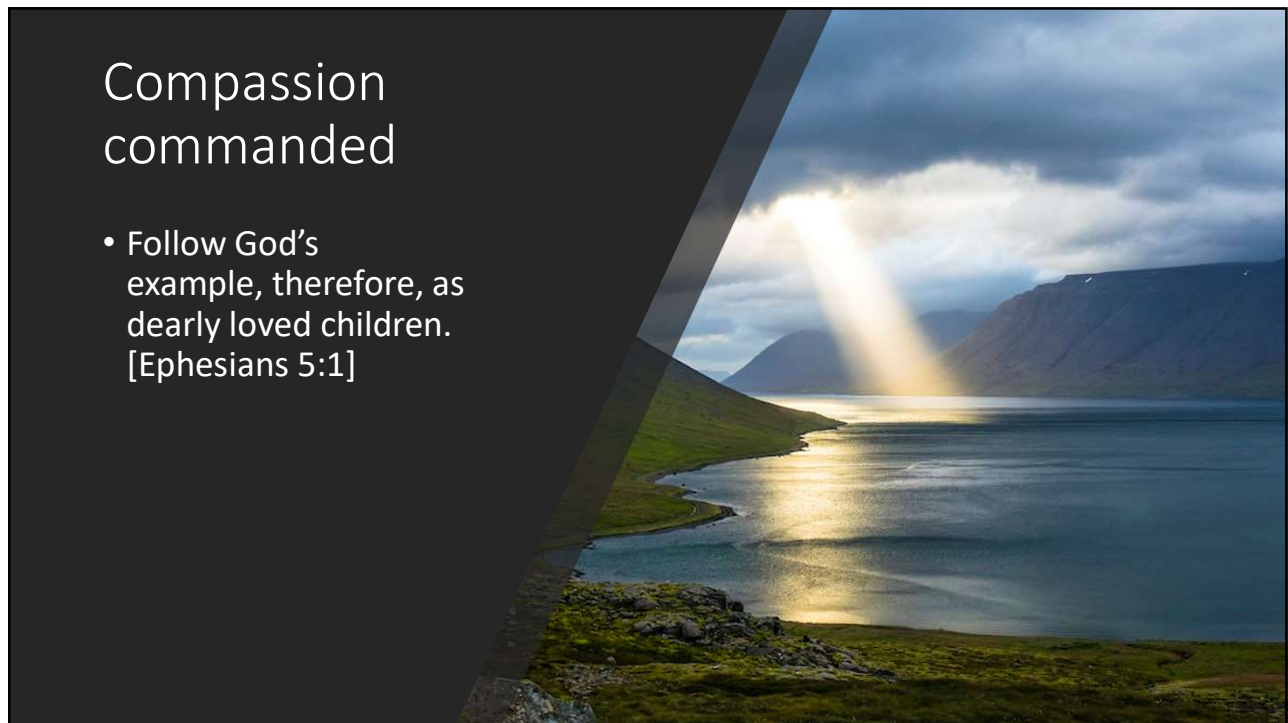
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Compassion commanded

- ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? [James 2:15-17]


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Compassion commanded

- Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children. [Ephesians 5:1]

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Compassion
commanded

- “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” [Matthew 25:40]

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Fifth commandment
ministry

- We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but *help and befriend him in every bodily need.*


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How does compassion ministry fit in?

- “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
[Matthew 5:16]



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Why compassion ministry?

1. Because God commands it, and we desire to do what he commands in thanks for his love. Christians love others.
2. Because the Spirit often blesses our loving actions with opportunities to share the good news of Christ.

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WELS Christian Aid and Relief

1. Disaster relief
2. Humanitarian aid
3. Community Care and Compassion Matching Grants
4. Personal financial grants

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community care & compassion

grants program

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Christ's Love, Our Calling.

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EQUIPPING CHURCHES TO CARE FOR COMMUNITIES



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CCC Examples

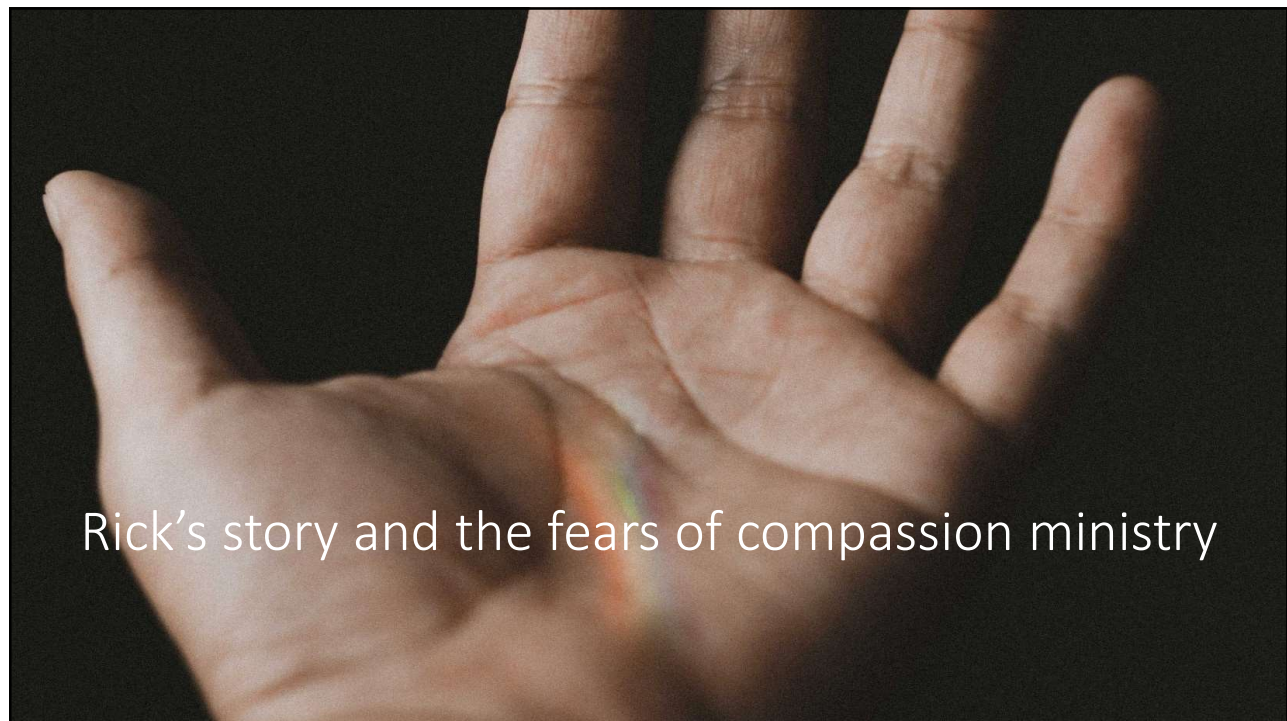
- Baby supplies for struggling parents
- Community garden / food pantry / Thanksgiving dinner
- Backpacks and school supplies for underprivileged kids
- Blankets for the homeless
- Support for veterans, police, fire fighters, medical personnel



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Rick's story and the fears of compassion ministry

There is no life hack for compassion ministry

Compassion = *to suffer with*

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Rick's story and the fears of compassion ministry

1. Mission detraction

**“Wherever the church breathes in the blessed gospel and sacraments,
it cannot but exhale mercy and love toward the neighbor.”**

Matthew Harrison, “The Church’s Role in the Community”

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Rick's story and the fears of compassion ministry

Compassion ministry from “program” to “posture”

It's the same divine impulse that pushes the Christian to evangelize the lost *and* love their neighbor.

1. **Mission** detraction
2. **Resource** depletion

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Rick's story and the fears of compassion ministry

Start near and small

Who is experiencing an *impediment* to full participation in the body of Christ?

1. **Mission** detraction
2. **Resource** depletion
3. **Knowledge** lacking

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Rick's story and the fears of compassion ministry

"If we were to act or not act in accordance with the wickedness of the world, we would never do anything good."

Martin Luther on "Mercy"

1. **Mission** detraction
2. **Resource** depletion
3. **Knowledge** lacking
4. **Been burned** before

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A Vision

for Compassion in the Parish

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Roadmap

1. **VISION** | A vision for compassion in the parish
2. **FLows** | The three “flows” of compassion ministry
3. **BLESSINGS** | Unexpected blessings
4. **PRACTICAL** | Cultivating a culture of compassion



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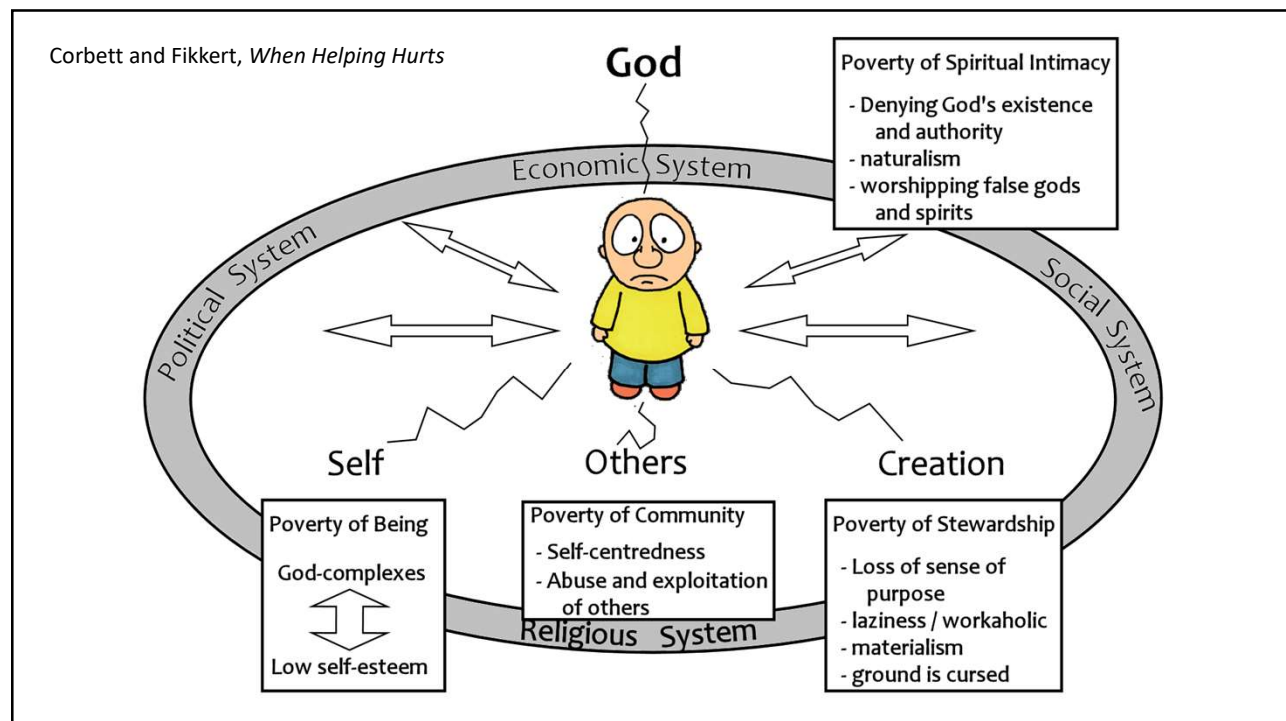


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“Poverty is rooted in broken relationships.”

Corbett and Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts*

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“The most experienced psychologist or observer of human nature knows infinitely less of the human heart than the simplest Christian...[because they don’t grasp] what sin is.”

Deitrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

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“Charity that does not enhance trusting relationships may not be charity at all.”

Robert Lupton, *Toxic Charity*

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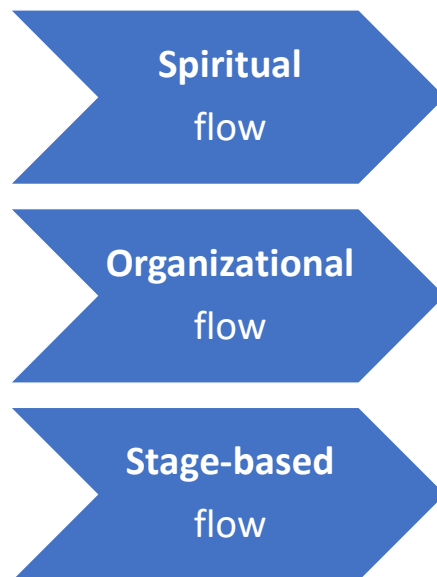
Compassion

is all about three things:

Relationships, relationships,
relationships

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A Vision | Compassion's Three "Flows"



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A Vision | Compassion's Three "Flows"

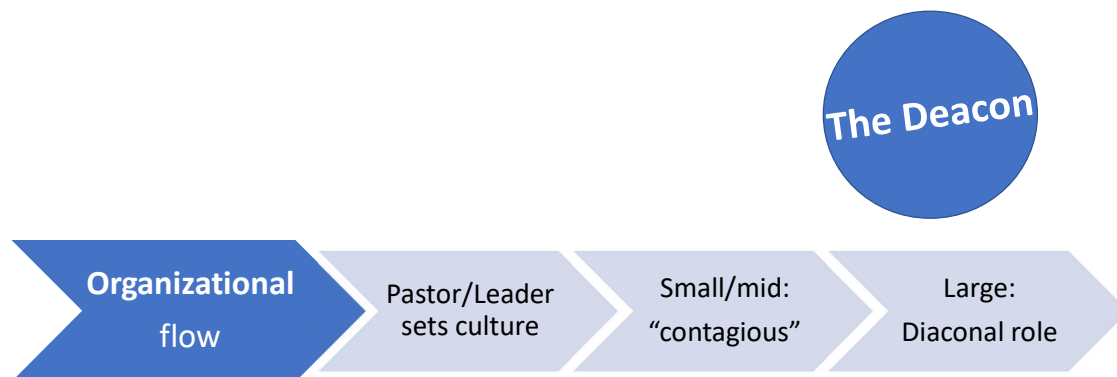


"Theology without mercy renders the confession of the faith a clanging cymbal. Mercy without the mooring of the Church's worship life loses its Christian character."

Matthew Harrison, *quote slightly shortened*

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A Vision | Compassion's Three "Flows"



"As a leader, you need to embody the things you want your organization to embody."

Cary Nieuwhof

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A Vision | Compassion's Three "Flows"

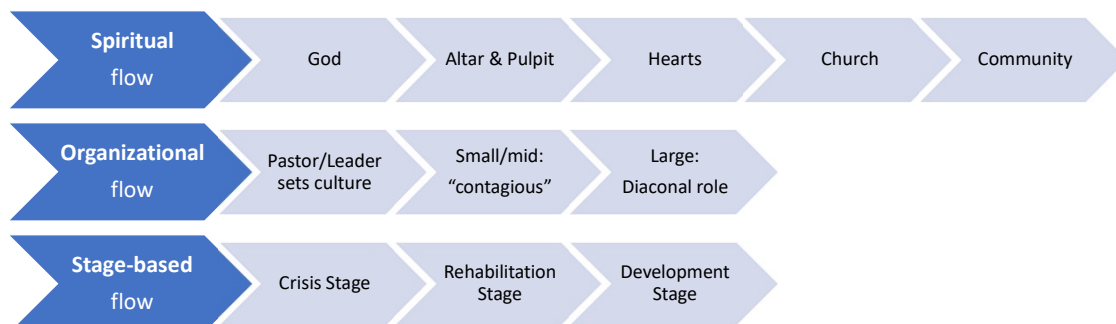


"Giving to those in need what they could be gaining from their own initiative may well be the kindest way to destroy people."

Robert Lupton, *Toxic Charity*

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A Vision | Compassion's Three "Flows"



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The Unexpected Blessings of Compassion Ministry

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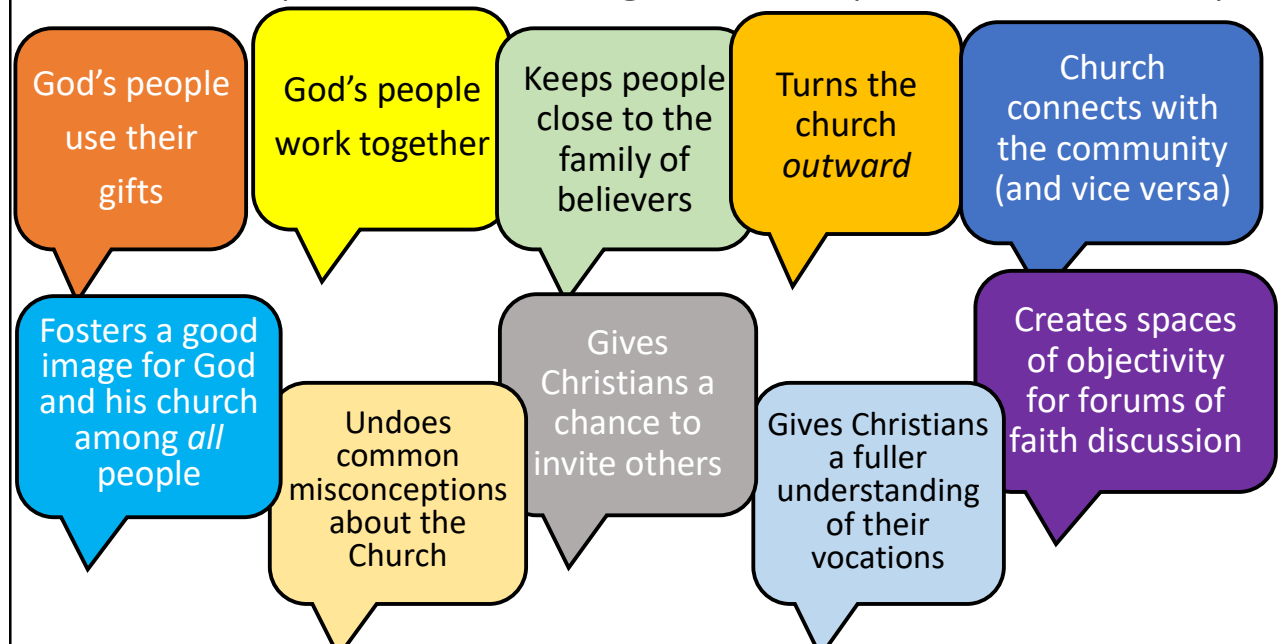
The Unexpected Blessings of Compassion Ministry

**If apologetics can disarm a hard, reasoning mind,
Compassion can disarm a hard, stubborn heart.**

The “why” of compassion:
Not to get blessings from God
Not to get blessings from others
But simply *because God first loved us*

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The Unexpected Blessings of Compassion Ministry




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Cultivating a culture of compassion

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Cultivating a culture of compassion



1. Get Started

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Cultivating a culture of compassion



1. Get Started



2. Find an Ally

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Cultivating a
culture of
compassion



1. Get Started



2. Find an Ally



3. Try Something

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Cultivating a
culture of
compassion



1. Get Started



2. Find an Ally



3. Try Something



4. Develop and
execute a plan

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One-Page Summary on Compassion in the Church

Vision

Intensely
focused on
reconciling
relationships

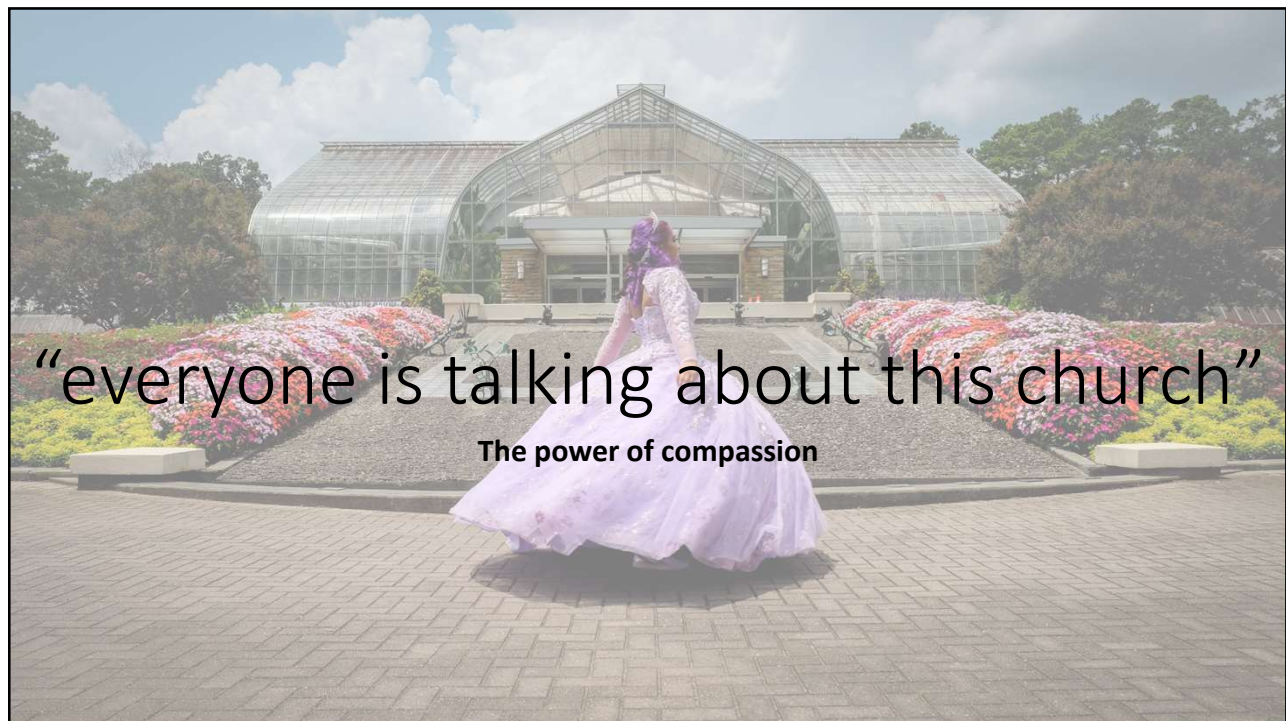
Flow

1 | Spiritual
2 | Organizational
3 | Stage-based

Cultivation

1 | Get started
2 | Find an ally
3 | Try something
4 | Develop

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Closing Thought

- If your church closed tomorrow would the community care? Would they even notice?
- Make your church a beacon of kindness and compassion – proclaimed from the pulpit and practiced in daily living.

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