I. A GODLY LIFE INCLUDES COMPASSION.

Luke 10:30-37, “Then Jesus answered and said, ‘A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had COMPASSION. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?’ And he said, ‘He who showed mercy on him.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’” (NKJV)

A. Compassion is responding to the needs of others with a longing to do whatever is necessary to help them.

B. Right now there is suffering because of the sin of humans.

C. Since God is a god of compassion, a godly life will have compassion.

II. THE CHARACTER QUALITY OF COMPASSION IS NOT A SUGGESTION FOR THOSE OF US WHO FOLLOW CHRIST BUT RATHER A COMMAND.

III. TO WHOM ARE WE TO SHOW COMPASSION?

A. People without Christ.

Matt. 9:36-38, “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with COMPASSION for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” (NKJV)

Luke 19:10, “Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (NKJV)

Rom. 10:1, “Dear brothers, the longing of my heart and my prayer is that the Jewish people might be saved.” (TLB)

Secondly, we are to have compassion for:

B. Fellow believers.

1 Peter 3:8-9, “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having COMPASSION for one another; love
as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.” (NKJV)

Gal. 6:10, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (NKJV)

Thirdly, we are to have compassion for:

C. Especially our family members and relatives.

1. The root problem in most marriages and family relationships is a lack of compassion for each other.

2. Selfishness is always wanting your needs to be met.

3. Compassion is putting others before self, which is what a godly life does.

IV. HOW DO WE DEVELOP A HEART OF COMPASSION IN OUR LIVES?

A. By focusing on what we have been forgiven of our great debt to God.

Matt 18:23-35, “Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with COMPASSION, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had COMPASSION on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.” (NKJV)

Personal Evaluation:

Are you “moved to compassion” when you see a person or group of people in need of Christ?
Are you “moved to compassion” for lost people when the invitation time comes at the end of a service? Are you like the Priest and Levite, you are more interested in going your own way instead of waiting and praying that people who are not saved will come forward and get saved?

Are you “moved to compassion” for believers you know who have problems and come to pray at prayer time to maybe come and kneel with them and pray with them and for them? Or you like the Priest and Levi who are more interested in getting out of church and going on doing your own things?

When a neighbor has a need, do you say, “Let me know if I can help,” hoping he will not call on you, or do you find a way to show compassion?

Do you have funds or skills that are available to help those who have a need?

Who was the last person you saw who needed help and how did you help him or her?