

The New Testament Church
Compassion #3: *Willing to Yield*
Pastor Paul Jehle - November 27, 2022
James 3:13-17

I We have compassion for one another already in our spirit if we are believers

- A. Positional and experiential truth – we are in the spirit, now we must *walk there*
 - 1. Eph. 1:3; Ps. 103:4 – *we are blessed and crowned with... compassion (mercy)*
 - 2. Romans 6:11 – *we reckon ourselves to be dead to sin and alive to who we are*
- B. Reconcile offenses (2nd Cor. 5:18; Eph. 2:13-16) – don't give or receive them...
 - 1. Enmity and blindness - offenses - *scandalon* to stumble and *proskomma* – soul hurt
 - 2. Wall that separates us from God is sin (enmity) – “deep-rooted hatred” for God's law
 - 3. Reconcile; *to change, exchange* – He died in our place - “*from enmity to friendship*”

II Yield – *easy to be received; yielding; willing to obey* – *eupethes* – to reason well...

- A. Willing to yield does *not* mean passively compliant – would never get on the highway
 - 1. Like Eve and Adam – Genesis 3 – *Adam did not interpose himself, said nothing*
 - 2. Balaam – Numbers 22 – *he passively went against God, confronted by an angel*
 - 3. King Saul – 1st Samuel 15 – *he did not fully obey God, only partially did so*
 - 4. King Ahab – 1st Kings 16 – *he allowed Jezebel to control him, passively disobeying*
- B. Willing to yield does *not* mean arrogantly controlling – pushing into traffic
 - 1. Like Lot's wife – Genesis 18-19 – *looking back, becoming a pillar salt*
 - 2. Like Jonah – Jonah 1-6 – *refusing to do as God commands*
 - 3. Like Ananias and Saphira – Acts 5 – *lying to the Holy Spirit*
 - 4. Like the Apostle Paul – Acts 8-9 – *persecuting the way of God until an encounter*
- C. Willing to yield – or reasoning well that portrays compassion toward others
 - 1. Like Daniel – Daniel 1 – *he sought out a way to yield, but not disobey God*
 - 2. With Jesus – Mt. 11:28-30 - “My yoke is easy, and my burden is light”
 - a. My yoke is easy, and my burden is light – only when equally yoked
 - b. The word for “yoke” is a balance beam – left/right; fast/slow
 - c. Dt. 22:10 - Ox and donkey not yoked – 2nd Cor. 6:14-18 – unequal yoking
 - i. If it will cause you to fall out of communion with God (1st Cor. 15:33)
 - ii. If it will enable habits of putting idols before your walk with God
 - iii. Unequal yoking involves both passivity and pushing
 - d. We must desire to obey God *and* exhibit a willingness to yield to others
 - e. We are yoked with God yet are to bless others for the *common good*
- D. How to walk in a yoke with God without passively slow or pulling (stiff-necked)
 - 1. In training oxen to pull loads with a yoke, the following is the process
 - 2. While still young, they learn to **trust** their handlers (God)
 - 3. They learn to walk with a loose rope – **leave yourself room to move**
 - 4. The yokes get progressively bigger and bigger – **greater and greater consequences**
 - 5. “Step up” is to go forward – **let us step up into His love and compassion for others**
 - 6. “Gee” – is to turn right; “Haw” – is to turn left – **let us turn as He leads us to do so**
 - 7. “Whoa” is to stop; “Back” is to back up – **pause and back up if necessary**
 - 8. **It takes practice to learn to walk in a yoke with God**
 - 9. **We must discern His voice through His Word with compassion for others**