
God is Merciful

Main Idea

The attribute of God's mercy is one that has its foundation in his Holy character and manifests itself in unmerited favour towards unworthy sinners. To truly understand mercy we need to consider just how sinful we are and just how gracious and just God is.

Study Questions

1. How would you define mercy. What would you say is the difference between mercy and grace?
2. In last weeks study we examined the fact that God is just. If he were only just and not also merciful, what could each of us reasonably expect from him?
3. In what way(s) is God's mercy connected to his other attributes like omnipotence, love, holiness, etc?
4. Read the following verses and note what it says about mercy. Be sure to note the context of each;
 - Deuteronomy 4:31
 - Luke 6:36
 - Micah 7:18
 - 2 Samuel 24:14
 - 1 Peter 1:3-5
5. What are some of the defence mechanisms many of us use to deal with guilt and avoid direct confrontation with God?
6. To grow in understanding God's mercy we need to have a right view of ourselves. Read Proverbs 16:2,25 and answer; Why is it so difficult for us to gain a true picture of ourselves from introspection alone?

7. Read Titus 3:3–8. How is receiving God's mercy linked with the power to live a new life?
8. What personal experience stands out to you as a very meaningful example of God's mercy?
9. What do you feel are the keys to our having a greater awareness and experience of the mercy of God?
10. Read the following quotes and note what each one teaches about God's mercy.
 - *God's mercy is so great that you may sooner drain the sea of its water, or deprive the sun of its light, or make space too narrow, than diminish the great mercy of God. — Charles Spurgeon*
 - *Once a man has truly experienced the mercy of God in his life he will henceforth aspire only to serve. — Dietrich Bonhoeffer*
 - *But the man who is not afraid to admit everything that he sees to be wrong with himself, and yet recognizes that he may be the object of God's love precisely because of his shortcomings, can begin to be sincere. His sincerity is based on confidence, not in his own illusions about himself, but in the endless, unfailing mercy of God. — Thomas Merton*

Personal Reflection

- Consider how you might respond to this study on God' mercy. What are one or two takeaways?
- What are tangible ways you can show mercy this week?