



## Purposeful Compassion

Source: Nazarene Essentials

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- A. [Purposeful compassion displays the loving heart of God.](#)
- God's sending His Son to the world and Jesus dying on behalf of humanity are God's ultimate gifts of love and compassion.
  - John 3:16-17 tells us that God gave us His Son from the overflow of His love so we may have eternal life. Similarly, 1 John 3:16-17 tells us that the love of God for humanity is expressed in genuine acts of compassion of believers towards God's creation.
  - Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection illustrate One being moved in love on behalf of another and on behalf of the world (Matthew 9:36).
- B. [Purposeful compassion is always done in the name of Jesus.](#)
- Jesus is our model of compassion. In the Gospels, Jesus was moved within His innermost being to "suffer with" humanity.
  - Jesus was particularly moved with compassion in love and care for those who were poor, lost, sick, marginalized, and vulnerable.
  - Both fully God and fully human, Jesus is our model of how to live and how to love.
- C. [Purposeful compassion respects the dignity of each person.](#)
- The people of God offer hope, love, and help in the name of Jesus in ways that honor each person as someone who is made in God's image, as God's creation.
  - Compassion does not have a motive other than to extend the love of God in Christ.
- D. [Purposeful compassion flows naturally from transformed believers.](#)
- The church is called to embody God's own love and compassion in the world.
  - The work of compassion is never completed by human effort or social activism alone.
  - As the Body of Christ, our compassionate calling touches all areas of life in a holistic way formed by the life of Jesus and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
  - The Holy Spirit transforms the hearts of believers who, in turn, work to bring physical, social, and spiritual transformation to our world.
  - Compassion is meant to be integral and active in the life and ministry of every congregation.
- E. [Purposeful compassion is our Wesleyan definition of holistic mission.](#)
- We are sent by God the Father and empowered by the Holy Spirit to go into the world to love and serve the Lord.
  - We believe that the Father is already working by the power of the Spirit in each person's life, and we are called to come alongside this good work.

- True evangelism brings the call and commitment of entering into and getting involved in the lives of those around us.
- In the name of Jesus, we draw near to suffering and brokenness, and we seek to bring healing, hope, peace, and love to persons who are in need, marginalized, and vulnerable.
- We are drawn toward one another in loving friendship and community, which brings social consequences. This is also how God builds and extends the Body of Christ.

F. Purposeful compassion flows from our lives as an expression of our commitment to God's mission to redeem a broken world.

- We seek to see, hear, and respond to broken and hurting humanity in the same way God does.
- We seek to invest all of the resources available to us to alleviate human suffering and seek God's plans of restoration, wholeness, salvation, and peace in and for the world.
- We further attempt to repair the systems of societies in cycles, which create the structures of injustice that contribute to the oppression of people and systemic evil in our world, and we do so in the name of Jesus.
- We seek in all we do to help fulfill the Lord's mission and bring glory to God (Micah 6:8).