

“Cruel Compassion”

Title: Cruel Compassion

Date: July 12, 2026

Text: Assorted Texts

“ _____ ”

Five ways to guard against cruel compassion:

1. Cultivate a heart of God-like _____.

God is compassionate.

Psalm 103:8 "The LORD is **compassionate** and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness."

Jesus is compassionate.

Matthew 9:36 "Seeing the people, He felt **compassion** for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd."

We are to be compassionate.

Colossians 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of **compassion**, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

2. Identify the _____.

Ephesians 6:10–12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

“schemes”

He changes _____ to make evil appear good and good appear evil.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

"Reproductive rights"

"Gender-affirming care"

"Minor-attracted persons"

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**We don't fight people, we fight the lies that
_____ them.**

3. Reject the world's _____.

Colossians 2:6–8 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

Ephesians 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

8 See to it that no one (**people**) takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

"See to it" - Continuous command

"captive"

"according to Christ"

1. If you really care about women, you'll support their right to choose abortion.
2. If you really respect people, you'll use preferred pronouns.
3. If you're really a kind person, you'll celebrate all love including homosexuality.
4. If Christians are supposed to be tolerant, then they should accept transgenderism.
5. The Bible tells people to be accepting, so we should welcome illegal immigrants.

4. Prioritize _____.

Romans 12:1–2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

“conformed”

Culture teaches us that love means affirmation.

Culture insists that compassion means never offending anyone.

Culture conditions us to believe that truth is whatever feels loving.

Culture convinces us that making someone feel guilty is always harmful

“transformed”

“renewing of our mind”

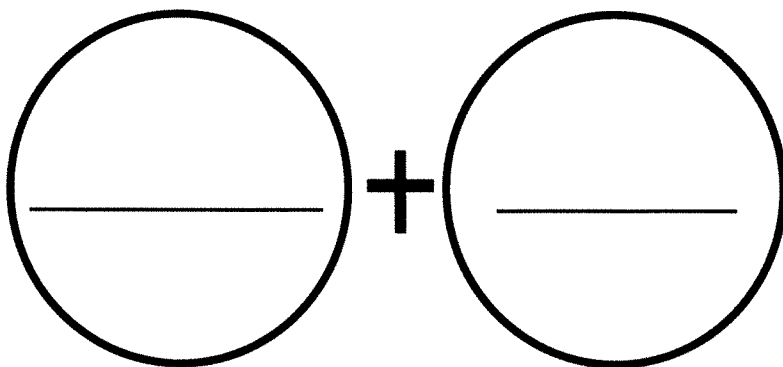
A renewed mind produces a transformed life.

“what the will of God is”

The flow of this text:

Surrender > Transformation > Discernment > Obedience

5. Anchor compassion in the _____.



John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

“grace AND truth”

Jesus never sacrificed _____ for the sake of compassion.

1. The woman caught in adultery. (John 8:1-11)

John 8:7 But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”

10 Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you, either

2. The rich young ruler (Mark 10:17–22)

Mark 10:21 Looking at him, Jesus felt a **LOVE** for him and said to him, “One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

3. The Samaritan Woman (John 4:7-18)

John 4:16 He *said to her, “Go, call your husband and come here.”

17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus
*said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband';
18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now
have is not your husband; this you have said truly."

4. Jesus wept over Jerusalem - Luke 19:41-44

Luke 19:43–44 "For the days will come upon you when your
enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you
and hem you in on every side, 44 and they will level you to the
ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you
one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of
your visitation."

5. The Crowds (Mark 6:34)

Mark 6:34 When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He
felt **COMPASSION** for them because they were like sheep without a
shepherd; and He began to **TEACH** them many things.

Implication

**Compassion without truth is not only cruel and unloving to
believers; for those without Christ, it is _____.**

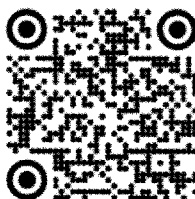
Discussion Guide

1. How has our culture redefined compassion, and why is it important for Christians to distinguish between biblical compassion and what our culture calls compassion?
2. Which of Satan's "schemes" mentioned in the sermon do you see most clearly in our culture today? How can changing language influence the way people think about sin and truth?
3. Read Romans 12:1–2 and Colossians 2:6–8. What practical steps can we take to keep from being "conformed to this world" and instead have our minds renewed by God's Word?
4. Is there someone in your life with whom you've been tempted either to compromise the truth in the name of compassion or to speak the truth without compassion? What would it look like to lovingly speak the truth to that person this week?

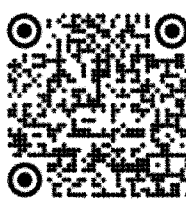


Circus Week 2026

Interested in serving during Circus Week? Scan the QR code for details about service opportunities and evangelism conversation starters. Join us as we connect with our community and share the hope of Christ. Please prayerfully consider serving at the booth this year. See Jason Winegardner for more information.



**Meet
the Staff**



**Online
Giving**



**Weekly
Announcements**

ANSWERS: Cruel Compassion, love, battle, language, enslave, influence, worship, God's Word, Compassion, Truth, truth, damning