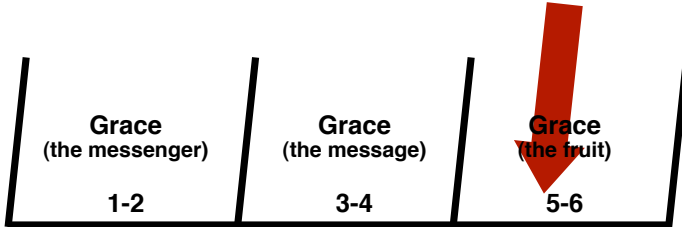


The letter to the *Galatians*



Paul has authority to speak from God on matters of the Gospel!

How are the Old and New Covenants related?

Does grace discourage disciplined living?

Galatians 5

“¹³ For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another.”

Galatians 5

“¹³ For you were called to freedom, brethren; ”

✓ **Don’t underestimate your radical freedom from the law in Christ.**

1. Radical freedom from the law is a calling from God.

2. To live under the law is to disobey God and to be outside of Christ.

Romans 8

“¹ Therefore there is **now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”

1 Corinthians 10

“²³ **All things are lawful**, but not all things are profitable (**for the good**). All things are lawful, but not all things edify (**build up**). ²⁴ Let no one seek his own good, but that of the other.”

Galatians 5

“¹³ . . . only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh,”

✓ **Don’t turn your freedom into—carnal legalism or license.**

Romans 6:15

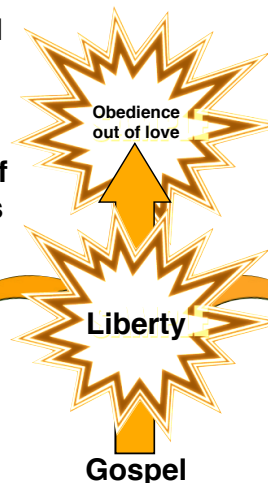
“Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!”

Turning away from this end is to mock the Cross.

The Gospel of grace sets us free from the law.



Legalism



Gospel

The Gospel of liberty is to inspire loving obedience.



License

Galatians 5

“¹³ but through love serve one another.”

✓ Let your service be **motivated by love** not law (fear, guilt, etc.).

1. The focus is on our relationship with **other Christians**.
2. Love is defined by **action** (service).
3. The **motive** for obedience under grace is love.

Galatians 5

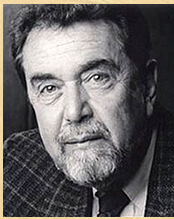
“For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” ”

✓ Let your love be deeply **empathetic**.

Matthew 7:12

“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you.”

Leo Buscaglia



“I have a very strong feeling the the opposite of love is not hate - it’s apathy, It’s not giving a damn.”

Empathy is an important attribute of God.

Psalms 56:8

“You have taken account of my wanderings; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?”



The Incarnation shows us God’s Empathy.

Matthew 1:23

“And they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, “God with us”.”

Jesus’ ministry shows us God’s Empathy.

Hebrews 4:15

“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”

The Spirit’s ministry is Empathetic.

Rom.8:26-27

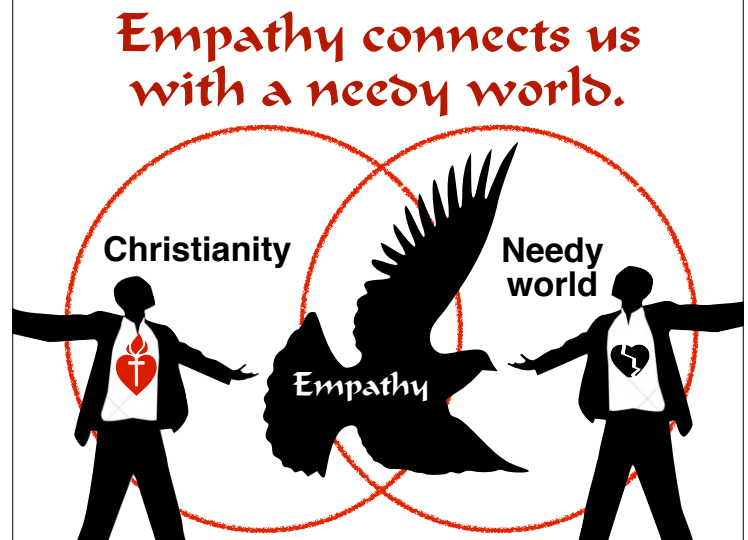
“²⁶ And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”



The Golden Rule (the core of Christian social ethics) is based on Empathy.

Matthew 7:12

“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you.”



1 Corinthians 9

“19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more. 20 And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law, though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.”

Helen Keller



“So long as you can sweeten another’s pain, life is not in vain.”

Empathy is a vital part of true repentance.

Pain of being a victim

They are abusive of others

Others centered in a destructive sense

They do not change

Pain of shame and punishment

They are destructive of self

Self centered in a destructive sense

They get worse

Pain of empathy with others

They connect with others

Others centered in a constructive sense

They get better

Stephen Covey



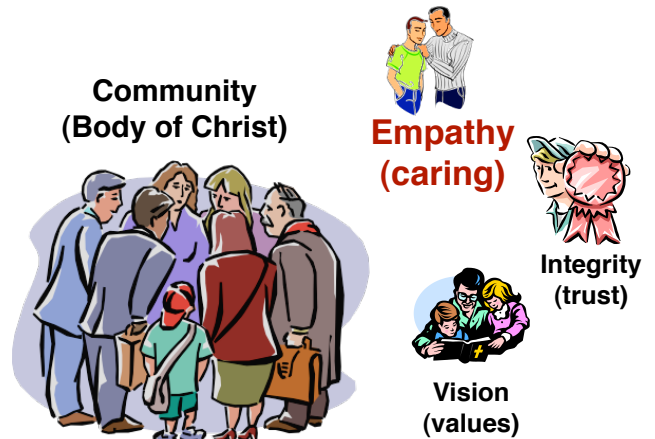
“When you listen with empathy to another person, you give that person psychological air.”

Galatians 5

“¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another.”

✓ A lack of empathy will **destroy** you and your brother.

Empathy connects us.



Empathy is vital to:



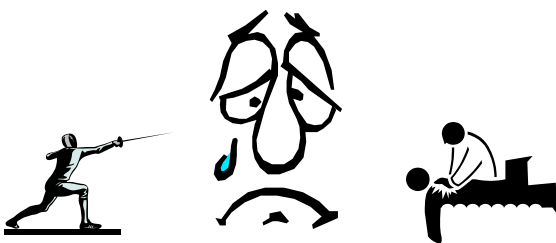
- Marriage
- Family
- Church
- Nation
- World

Barack Obama



“We live in a culture that discourages empathy. A culture that too often tells us our principal goal in life is to be rich, thin, young, famous, safe, and entertained.”

Christian Empathy extends to



the offender

the offended

“**forgive**”

“**bear with**”

Lessons

- ✓ Don't underestimate the **radical freedom** that you have in Christ.
- ✓ Don't give in to the **temptation to abuse** your freedom.
- ✓ Let your service be **motivated by love** not law (fear, guilt, etc.).
- ✓ Let your love be deeply **empathetic**.
- ✓ A lack of empathy will **destroy** you and those around you.
- ✓ Empathetic loving service to others bears **witness** to Christ in us.