

Mercy
Matthew 5:7

Having experienced the mercy of God, authentic Christians will live a mercy filled life.

I. AUTHENTIC FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST HAVE EXPERIENCED THE MERCY OF GOD. (Psalm 136; Ephesians 2:1-4)

Old testament – “chesed” - In the Old Testament, of the 248 times that the Hebrew word *chesed* is found in the Authorized Version (KJV), 149 times it is rendered *mercy*, 40 times it is rendered *kindness*, and 30 times it is rendered *lovingkindness*.

New Testament – “eleos” - Mercy is not simply the withholding of punishment, but it is the act of giving help or having compassion on someone who is afflicted.

II. AUTHENTIC FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST EXPRESS THE MERCY OF GOD. (1 John 3:17)

Leonard Ravenhill: "The world is not looking for a new definition of Christianity, but a new demonstration of Christianity."

- Those who have received mercy are those who show mercy.
- Jesus doesn't merely save us *from something*, He saves us *for something*.
- He wants to express His life through us as we serve others.

III. AUTHENTIC FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST CAN EXPECT THE MERCY OF GOD. (Psalm 23:6; Lamentations 3:22-23; Jude 21)

Those who are **merciful ... shall receive** mercy from God. God gives the divine blessings to those who obey His divine standards.

Micah 7:18 (NIV) Who is a God like you, who pardons sins and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.