

The Christian Arsenal

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INVESTING YOUR LIFE THROUGH MERCY Investing Your Life

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Part 7 of 7

"Happy are the merciful for they will have mercy shown to them!" Matt. 5:7
(Phillips)

1. THE MEANING OF MERCY

MERCY IS LOVE IN ACTION.

"God is kind and merciful, slow to get angry and full of love." Psalm 145:8 (LB)

2. THE MARKS OF MERCY – IF I AM MERCIFUL ...

A. I'll be patient with those who are peculiar

I believe that in every life some weirdoes must fall.

"...Encourage the timid, help the weak, and be patient with everyone." I
Thess. 5:14

Behind every peculiar behavior, there's loneliness, hurt, depression, or a
kind of anxiety that God says we need to look at.

"Accept each other, in the Lord, even as Christ has accepted you."
Romans 15:7

B. I'll forgive those who are fallen.

*"Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember the Lord
forgave you, so you must forgive others."* Col. 3:13 (LB)

- It's a lot easier to criticize than it is to sympathize.
- It's a lot easier to point a finger than it is to lend a helping hand.

C. I'll help those who are hurting.

"Wherever you possibly can, do good to those who need it." Prov. 3:27
(GN)

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“If someone who is supposed to be a Christian has enough money to live on and sees a brother in need but won’t help him, how can God’s love be in him? Let’s stop just saying we love people, let’s show it by our own actions!” I John 3:17 –18 (LB)

Don’t just say we love people – show it.

John Wesley’s motto: “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can.”

Flip Wilson: “I’m a Jehovah’s bystander.”

D. I’ll do good to my enemies.

“If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that...But love your enemies, do good to them ... then you reward will be great... Be merciful, just as your Father is!” Luke 6:33, 35-36

3. THE MOTIVE FOR MERCY

A. Because God has shown me mercy.

“Shouldn’t you be merciful to other people just as I have been merciful to you?” Matt. 18:3 (LB)

We tend to judge people by their worst faults and we tend to judge ourselves by our best intentions.

B. Because I’m going to need more mercy in the future.

“The man who makes no allowances for others will find none made for him.” James 2:3 (Phillips)

God does not give us what we deserve; He gives us what we need.

C. Because it makes me happy.

Ben Franklin: “When you’re good to other people you are best to yourself.”

“Your own soul is nourished when you are kind; it is destroyed when you re cruel.” Prov. 11:17 (LB)

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WHAT YOU GIVE IS WHAT YOU GET.