

CVC LIFE GROUP: Everyone Needs Compassion Text: Acts 6:1–7

“Everyone in this room has needed compassion... and everyone in this room has the opportunity to give it.”

- Ask: “How has compassion from others affected you?”
- Briefly share a personal or relatable moment (acceptance vs. rejection story—Oregon/NYC example)

We live in a world that talks a lot about empathy—but what we really need is compassion.

Compassion vs. Empathy

- Define: **Empathy**: feeling with someone **Compassion**: feeling + action

Scripture Reading: Read: Acts 6:1–7

Ask: 📖 “What stood out to you?”

The Problem: Compassion Breakdown

- Church is growing (5,000+ believers) They were unified—but not perfect
- A **distribution problem** emerges:
 - Greek-speaking widows overlooked
 - Hebrew-speaking widows receiving more

Key Insight: 📖 First church conflict = compassion gap

- Not racism—but **systems failure + cultural disconnect**
- Real issue: **people in need were being missed**

Application Questions:

- Where are people being overlooked today?
- Where might *you* be overlooking someone?

So how did the church respond?

The Solution: Shared Responsibility

1. Clear Calling Apostles refocus: Prayer + preaching the Gospel

Truth: You can’t do everything—but you are called to do *something*

2. Raising Leaders (The Seven)

Qualifications:

1. Good reputation
2. Full of the Holy Spirit
3. Full of wisdom

Application: Compassion requires discernment Not every “yes” is wise—but some “no’s” are disobedience

3. Powerful Detail

- All 7 had **Greek names** The offended group became the leaders

Big Idea: God often raises solutions from within the problem

Application:

- Who is your *OIKOS* (your relational world)? Who are you uniquely positioned to serve?

The Outcome: Compassion Fuels Mission

- Leaders are commissioned (laying on hands) Church grows Gospel spreads
- Talk about imbalance:
 - “Social Gospel” without Jesus = empty
 - Words without compassion = hollow

Compassion must be: **Spiritual (Soul)** **Emotional (Mind)** **Practical (Body)**

God’s Compassion Toward You

Read: Psalms 145:8–9

God’s compassion is:

- Consistent Rooted in His character Not dependent on your circumstances

Many struggle to give compassion because they haven’t received it themselves

👉 You cannot give what you refuse to receive

Practical Activation: Compassion without action is complacency

Real-Life Applications:

- Bring groceries to someone Buy a stranger’s meal Give a gas gift
- Invite someone to dinner Pray with someone

Reflection Questions:

- Where have you become calloused?
- Who is God asking you to show compassion to?
- What step will you take this week?

Prayer Focus:

- Soft hearts
- Spirit-led compassion
- Bold action