

# *Biblical Foundations: Principles of Care-Giving*

## Prepared for Serve 6.8

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### Central Core Values Supported by Scripture

📖 **Micah 6:8** NIV. He has showed you, O man, what is good and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

→ Practical Sequence: (1) Walk humbly, (2) love mercy, and (3) act justly. (head, heart, hands.)

📖 **Isaiah 6:8** NIV. Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

→ Partnering with God is a choice. "Lord, if You speak clearly, we will obey courageously."

📖 **Colossians 3:17** NIV. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

→ No affiliation or funding can be accepted that would restrict ministry "in the name of Jesus."

📖 **1 John 3:17-19** NIV. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

→ Care-giving ministry is "love in action." It is personal, not just programmatic.

📖 **Isaiah 61:1-3** NIV. <sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

→ The mandate of Christ was to make comprehensive impact on lost and hurting people.

📖 **Matthew 10:42** NIV. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my [Jesus'] disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

→ A cup of cold water is compassionate relief given as prompted by the indwelling Savior.

📖 **Colossians 4:5-6** NIV. <sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

→ Treat Non-Christian care providers with respect, appreciation, without compromise.

📖 **Romans 12:6-8** NIV. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to

the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

→ Spiritual gifts for care-giving include: Serving, encouraging, contributing, and showing mercy.

## Other Scriptural Instruction on Care-Giving.

📖 **Philippians 2:4.** Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

→ Selflessness in Care-giving: Not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.

📖 **Galatians 6:2.** Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

→ Sharing the load another is struggling to handle, because Jesus is loving them through you.

📖 **Romans 12:10.** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.

→ See others through the eyes of God's love, honoring them as redeemable "image-bearers."

📖 **Galatians 6:9-10.** Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

→ Compassion starts at home, with the family of God, but extends to all willing people in need.

📖 **James 1:27.** Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

→ Compassion ministry reaches out to the distressed in life circumstances beyond their control.

📖 **John 13:34-35.** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

→ The badge of true disciples of Jesus is loving as Christ loved. We make His love visible to all.

📖 **1 John 3:17-18.** But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

→ An open heart is reflected in an open hand to people in need. Love in action honors our Lord.

📖 **Matthew 25:40.** "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

→ Motivation in care-giving is that it makes Jesus smile. We do it for Him.

📖 **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.

→ To have a heart of compassion is to become more like Jesus. It is a fruit of the Spirit.

📖 **Matthew 6:2-4** NIV. <sup>2</sup> "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

➔ Confidentiality is a way to honor people we serve, and safeguards the glory of God.

📖 **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** NIV. <sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

➔ We comfort others with the compassionate provisions of God which we have received.

📖 **Philippians 2:1-4** NIV. If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

➔ To be like Jesus, we humbly serve others. This is a choice. Let Jesus care through you.

📖 **Romans 12:6-8** NIV. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

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## Separation from the Secular

📖 **John 17:14-16** NIV. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

📖 **Romans 12:2** ESV. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

📖 **John 17:15-18** ESV. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

📖 **2 Corinthians 6:14** ESV. Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

## Compassion in the Life of Christ

- 📖 **Matthew 9:36-38** NIV. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
- 📖 **Matthew 5:7** NIV. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- 📖 **Matthew 14:14** NIV. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.
- 📖 **Matthew 15:32** NIV. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way."
- 📖 **Matthew 20:34** NIV. Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.
- 📖 **Mark 1:40-42** NIV. A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.
- 📖 **Colossians 3:12** NIV. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

## Additional Scriptures on Compassionate Care-Giving

- 📖 **1 Timothy 5:8**. But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- 📖 **Proverbs 21:13**. He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor Will also cry himself and not be answered.
- 📖 **Galatians 2:10**. They only asked us to remember the poor--the very thing I also was eager to do.
- 📖 **Proverbs 14:31** NIV. He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.
- 📖 **Proverbs 19:17**. One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.
- 📖 **Psalms 102:17** NIV. He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.

📖 **1 Peter 3:8-9.** <sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; <sup>9</sup> not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

📖 **Galatians 5:13-14.** <sup>13</sup> You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. <sup>14</sup> The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

📖 **Isaiah 58:9-11.** <sup>9</sup> "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, <sup>10</sup> and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. <sup>11</sup> The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.

📖 **2 Corinthians 9:12-15.** <sup>12</sup> This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup> Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup> And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

📖 **Proverbs 28:27.** He who gives to the poor will never want, But he who shuts his eyes will have many curses.

("Partnership" Synonyms: Colleagues, Associates, Collaborators, Consortium, "Co-Operation?")