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TENDERHEARTED

One of the greatest things I see about Jesus was his compassion for those that were hurting. Be it prostitutes, tax collectors, sick people, or a Peter that denied him, He had compassion. In Ephesians 4:32 it says, ***“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”***

The word tenderhearted means to have compassion. A compassionate heart will look into another’s soul and see the hurt and offer love through action. It will never deliberately hurt another person. It takes the hand of the helpless and guides the steps of the wanderer. It has sympathy yet helps the suffering person to find the life preserver that pulls them out of the depths of despair.

Often preachers come across harsh in their messages, leaving no comfort for the hurting. Compassionate people don’t leave someone without hope. Jesus often was harsh to the religious people that had no compassion.

Why would Paul tell us to be tenderhearted? I sense he had been the opposite in his dealings with what he thought was justified by the law. I think he had seen what a heart of zeal without love could do to a person, and when he recognized this sin, it humbled him. He shared this to help those of us that are a little rough on others to recognize that compassion helps much more than criticism.

A tenderhearted person shows the hurting the way out of their hurt, but they do it with love. Love doesn’t want someone to stay “under” their circumstances. It reaches down like Jesus did and pulls them out and sets them on the solid rock.