

Bible Study
God Like Characteristics
Mercy

Mercy- an attribute of God and a virtue commended for human beings.

“God’s mercy is His tenderhearted, loving compassion for His people. It is His tenderness of heart toward the needy. If grace contemplates humans as sinful, guilty, and condemned, mercy sees them as miserable and needy.”- Millard Erickson wrote in *Christian Theology*

Mercy in Hebrew

- *Racham* means “to love or have compassion,” to have a disposition of mercy ([Psalm 116:5](#)).
- *Kapporeth* means “ransom” and it’s associated with the “mercy seat” in Scripture ([Exodus 25:22](#)).
- *Chesed* means “goodness,” “kindness,” or “mercifulness” ([Psalm 18:25](#)). Chesed is closely connected with God’s covenant with Israel, though that concept provides the general. God’s mercy is presented as a divine choice not an obligation (Exodus 33:19). God elects to show mercy, God shows mercy because God is gracious and merciful.

Mercy in Greek

- In the New Testament Greek, the words are *Eleos*, meaning “to have pity on,” to “show compassion,” or to “be merciful;” ([Matthew 5:7](#)).
- *Oiktirmos* also suggests compassion or pity. It’s the idea of divine forbearance in showing compassion and passing over sins. ([Romans 12:1](#)).

The Five Marks of Mercy

- Merciful People FORGIVE those who have FALLEN.
- Merciful People HELP those who are HURTING.
- Merciful People are PATIENT with difficult PEOPLE.
- Merciful People are KIND to their ENEMIES.
- Merciful People CARE for the LOST.

Three Motivations for Mercy

- We must be merciful because GOD IS MERCIFUL.
- We must be merciful because WE NEED MERCY-EVERYDAY.
- We must be merciful because MERCY BRINGS US TRUE JOY.