



INTRODUCTION

For many, the word *compassion* has come to mean feeling sorry for someone or having a mental attitude of pity at someone's misfortune. This month, Dr. Das walks us through the deeper meaning behind this word. He explores God's love for creation and his particular concern for human suffering in contrast to other religions that depict deities that are apathetic and disengaged with the human condition.

Dr. Das expands on compassion as the "gut-wrenching" response Christ has towards the lost, the poor, the sick, and the dying. Because we are made in his image, God is affected by what happens to us, particularly in our suffering. Christ's motivation to help, heal, and save us stems from the compassion he has for all of humanity. The actions he takes is to restore our God given dignity so we can live out our purpose in him.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In Colossians, the Apostle Paul uses this metaphor of clothing to describe the notion of "putting on compassion, kindness, humility, etc." In what ways does image help shape our calling to compassion?
2. Dr. Das introduces us to Moltmann's notion of the pathos of God ("affected by events, human actions, and suffering in history"). Can you think of a time in your recent past when you were particularly mindful of God's compassion as part of his very nature, or pathos?
3. As partners with CBM in helping heal a broken world, where are the places in your neighbourhood where you / your church / small group can reach out in love and compassion? How can you begin (if you haven't already started)?

EXCERPT

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
Col. 3:12

The pathos of God is not just a sense of sadness or an intellectual acknowledgement that there is something wrong with the world that he created. For Jesus it was a gut-wrenching reaction as he saw the "lostness" of people, the poor who were victims of injustice, those with crippling diseases and illness, the premature death of the young, and the abuse of the human beings he had created. Compassion is a divine attribute fundamental to God's nature. It defines him.

 We encourage you to share your own reflections using #CABA150, as well as follow along for the latest news and events on our website.