

## The Tender Heart

Be kind to one another, **tender-hearted**, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.  
Ephesians 4:32

All of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, **kindhearted**, and humble in spirit;  
1 Peter 3:8

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.  
Psalm 51:17

- **Tender-hearted** also means well-compassioned, sympathetic. It is from a word for intestines/bowels, which also means compassion, tender mercy, sympathy
- A tender heart is closely tied to **forgiveness**
- A tender heart is a **humble** and **broken** heart, not a proud and hard heart

### A Tender Heart shows Forgiveness and Compassion

- God is compassionate and forgives us. Our compassion and forgiveness is a sign of our saving faith.
- “No guts, no glory” I John 3:17, Matthew 18:27, 34-35
- “Do you have any guts?” Philippians 2:1 (to 11)

Matthew 18:21-35 – The unforgiving servant

Psalm 25:6-7 – Remember, O LORD, Your **compassion** .... Do not remember the sins of my youth

Psalm 51:1 – According to the greatness of Your **compassion** blot out my transgressions.

Luke 1:76-78 – salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, because of the **tender** mercy of our God

Luke 15:17-20 – his father saw him and felt **compassion** for him

Colossians 3:12-13 – put on a **heart of compassion**, ... forgiving each other, ... as the Lord forgave you

Heb 12:14-15 – Lack of grace brings a root of bitterness

Matthew 5:21-24 – leave your offering there... and go; first be reconciled to your brother

- True forgiveness demands that people let go of something they value - pride. Daily Walk, 5/27/92

### A Tender Heart is Humble and Broken, not Proud and Hard

God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. 1 Peter 5:5

- Pride is the complete anti-God state of mind. (C.S. Lewis)

Psalm 34:18 – The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit

Psalm 147:3 – He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds

Prov 28:13-14 – he who confesses will find **compassion**, he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity

Heb 3:12 – Take care that there not be an evil, unbelieving heart ... that none of you will be hardened

Mark 3:5 – The one time Jesus is said to appear angry is over hard, uncompassionate hearts

### **A good story that ends badly in pride: Uzziah – II Chronicles 26**

- Signs and consequences of pride

### **A bad story that ends well in humility and repentance: Manasseh – II Chronicles 33**

- Results of a humble and broken heart

A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise