

CULTIVATING A CONTAGIOUS FAITH

September 15, 2013 Various Texts by Bob Branch
Blessed To Be A Blessing Series, Part 2

Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. **Titus 2:9-10**

MAIN IDEA: Blessed to be a blessing will mean migrating from a self-orientation to an outward-focused life characterized by three main imperatives of Jesus: Love, Mercy and Humility.

1. **BOLD** Love.

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. **1 John 3:18** (1 Pet. 1:22; John 13:34-35; 15:12-13; 1 Cor. 13:1-3)

- **Come right out and SAY it** (Jeremiah 31:3)
- **Through WRITING it** (Philippians 1:7-8)
- **Through TOUCH** (Mark 10:16 took the children in his arms)
- **Through Small Acts of KINDNESS** (1 John 3:18)

2. **RADICAL** Mercy.

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. **Micah 6:8**

Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' **Matthew 18:33**

Not fighting fire with fire... not fighting back.

Slowing down our reaction time to give patience to someone.

3. **CONFIDENT** Humility.

For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

1 Corinthians 4:7

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less. **C. S. Lewis**

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment

Romans 12:3

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! **Philippians 2:3-8**