

Intro – One of my favorite lessons and stories about my family involves a cracked cup.

- A favorite cup became more precious because _____.

- This cup made us better people because _____.

The Cracked Cup and the Church

There is a parallel between this story and the church.

*"A bruised reed He will not break,
and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish."
(Isaiah 42:3)*

The "cracks" are not always in the same spot.

How to Handle a Cracked Cup – Ephesians 4:32-5:2

This passage is found in the middle of a long section dealing with how we should treat each other in the church.

Paul, the Apostle, provides three rules for dealing with "cracked cups."

Rule #1 – Be _____ - 4:32a

The word in the Greek means "... to do good."

Kindness strengthens other people.

Rule #2 – Be _____ - vs. 4:32b

Tenderheartedness does not mean being a wimp or soft.

Tenderheartedness is present when:

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

Jesus was most kind to the blindest of all.

Rule #3 – Be _____ - vs. 4:32c

Forgiveness at two levels:

- 1. Forgiveness at direct _____
- 2. Forgiveness as a spirit of _____

Spiritual damage control requires: _____

We need to remember that God handled us so tenderly that _____

Summary

The key idea is summarized in 5:1-2:

The love of the saints for Christ is like _____

The love of Christ for the saints is like _____

* Please, let us remember our "chips" and "bruises."

Invitation

Will I bring my _____ to Christ today?
