

## Love is Kind

### 1 Cor 13:4-6

**4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.**

### Nice vs Kind

Kindness is weighty, powerful, and challenging. Kindness is not merely wishing somebody well; it can never be just a mental exercise. Kindness has hands and feet, it is an action we must intentionally undertake. There are demands it makes of us. It takes sacrifice for another's well-being to be kind.

Biblical kindness is not synonymous with niceness, and it's important to understand this distinction because the Bible does not say that "Love is Nice"; it says that "Love is Kind". God commands us to be "Kind and Compassionate to one another" (Ephesians 4:32), and repeatedly throughout the New Testament.

We as Christians are called to the practical love of being "kind", when we may be tempted to otherwise content ourselves with the facade of being "nice".

### The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

**25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"**

**26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"**

**27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'<sup>[a]</sup>; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>[b]</sup>"**

**28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."**

**29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"**

**30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and**

when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii<sup>[e]</sup> and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

**36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"**

**37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."**

**Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."**

\*\*\*\*\*

So how can we practically be kind when there are times we simply don't feel kind?

By remembering the ultimate kindness that our Lord showed upon us, then we can begin to give grace and be kind to others.

Titus 3:4-5 says, "But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared...He saved us..."

God saved us because He is infinitely kind. Even though we're thoroughly sinful and were separated from God, His heart was filled with kindness toward us, which is why He sent His Son to die in our place so that we could be forgiven.

Second, we can lean on God, through the Holy Spirit, as a source of kindness. Since God is infinitely kind, and a part of his divine character abides in us, channeling the Holy Spirit enables us to be kind to others. While the Holy Spirit rests within us, Paul in Ephesians tells us that we must 'refill' ourselves with the Holy Spirit by experiencing its power everyday.

The Paradoxical Commandments by Ken Keith

This poem to me reveals the marvelous fact that God asks of us to do illogical and paradoxical things - to love in the face of unlove, to be kind to those who are not - because His love is the great paradox - while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

You see, in accounting terms, we have been given an abundance of love; we have lots of love in the bank from our creator, so in return, we can give away lavishly from our unlimited funds.

If we have experienced, and continue to experience, God's lavish love for us, a love that is patient and kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, a love that does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs, love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth, love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Then in turn, we can love others by...

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.

**Love them anyway**

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.

**Do good anyway**

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.

**Succeed anyway.**

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.

**Do good anyway.**

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.

**Be honest and frank anyway**

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.

**Think big anyway.**

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.

**Fight for a few underdogs anyway.**

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

**Build anyway.**

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.

**Help people anyway.**

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.

**Give the world the best you have anyway.**

Discussion questions:

1. What part of the lesson stood out to you?
2. Do you think it is possible to be truly kind to others without the help of the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?
3. Think of people who have been especially kind to you. In what ways have you benefited from their kindness?
4. God's love requires us to move outside our own comfort and convenience. How might this look in your everyday life?

5. Taking care of the beaten man on the side of the road derailed the Samaritan's traveling schedule and cost him a hefty amount. What did the Samaritan gain from all of this?

6. The ultimate kindness is the undercurrent of God's great love story of redeeming His people. Do you remember when you fully grasped the weight of your sin and the kindness of Jesus's sacrifice? How does remembering His love for you help you to be kind to others?