

Walking in Love.
Kindness.

1 Corinthians 13 : 4-8. 4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8Love never fails.

love is kind. Strongs 5541. The greek word is a doing word. It refers to performing an act of good will towards someone. The act of being kind. It is talking about living the lifestyle of doing things to benefit others. This kindness willingly makes the most of every opportunity to do good and does not wait to be pressured into doing something by guilt, manipulation or sense of duty. A fruit of the Spirit. Kindness is a fruit of The Spirit of God. One of the many Spiritual blessings of having the Spirit of the resurrected Christ living within us, is having the understanding that He gives of what it really means to be divinely or unconditionally kind and also, having His power and strength at work within us to enable us to act upon that understanding. This understanding comes from His Word. It's when we have a true revelation from the Holy Spirit through God's word, of how kind God has been to us that we will begin to move in performing unconditional acts of kindness for others. (The principle of) We love, because He first loved us. We are kind, because He was kind to us first.

Question : In what way/s has God been kind to us? Spend some time meditating on this.

John 3 : 16. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Our Father God gave the most precious, valued, loved person He had, His only Son, to pay the priceless debt that we owed for our sins so that we may not die and spend an endless, agonising existence in hell, separated from Him for all eternity.

Romans 5 : 6-10 . 6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.



God's kindness came to deliver us in our time of need.

Romans 5 : 6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Without the ability to change anything and without the hope of any help coming from anywhere, deserving nothing but to be sentenced to death. We were enemies of God. Sinners. Just at the right moment, when it could get no worse, God chose to be kind to us and deliver us in our time of need, from the power that the law of sin and death had over us, as He GAVE HIS BEST to us as a gift, that was Jesus His Son.

Question: How many have had God come through for you just at the right time? Spend some time meditating on this.

God's kindness came to us in demonstration.

vs 8. God "demonstrated" His love to us.

Demonstrated: To introduce favourably, to exhibit. Sending Jesus was a deliberate act of kindness. God's kindness was not hidden in words or thoughts, but revealed by action. He didn't just say I love you and not show it. God's kindness came to us when we didn't deserve it.

From a sinners perspective.

A/. Righteous meaning Holy, without guilt, unjustly condemned.

B/. Good meaning nice guy. To show approval of, to be worthy of.

For a good man someone may dare to die. Someone may choose to show their approval of another's goodness or worthiness by dying for them. We were neither in the eyes of God, yet He still loves us and has been incredibly kind to us. God wanted to show His approval of us, to reveal to us that we are worthy to die for irrespective of our actions. I love my children not for what they do, but for who they are. Naughty or good.

God's kindness is not relegated to the past.

vs 10. How much more. Not only has God removed the power of sin from me, but has also promised to give me everything I need to make my life fulfilling and meaningful.

Romans 8 : 32. He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

But just like a father should be, He supplies for our need, not caters for our greed.



Question : In what ways do you think we may be flippant in the way we talk about the Jesus we say we love so much?

Question : What would you say are the actions of someone who really realises how much of a price God paid for us and why He paid it?

God wants us to be able to grasp the depth of how much we are loved by Him. Loved not because we belong to the christian faith or are good people, but purely because we are His creation, created in His image.

Kindness is grace in action.

When God is kind to man, He is said to be gracious towards us. Also described as God's favour upon people. Giving man something that he does not deserve. Though mankind has nothing in himself to offer God or to make himself pleasing in God's sight due to his own goodness, God's Grace causes Him to perform acts of unmerited, undeserved kindness towards us.

Acts 10 : 38. how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good (performing acts of unmerited kindness) and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Jesus ministry was to demonstrate the lovingkindness of God towards us.

John 1 : 14. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Kindness is mercy in action.

When God is kind to man, He is also said to be merciful towards us. Mercy is that part of God's character that causes Him to withhold giving us what we really do deserve. We all deserve to be cut off from God for eternity.

How often do we mess things up, Say the wrong thing, do the wrong thing?

The practicalities of Kindness.

How are we meant to show kindness?

Luke 6 : 27-36. But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. 30Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32"If you love those who



love you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' love those who love them. 33And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' do that. 34And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' lend to `sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. 35But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

It's easy to love those who love us.

Jesus points out to us how easy it is to love those who love us. Jesus emphasises “Even the sinners do that”.

But the gospel message goes further than the natural worlds way of loving, and goes into the supernatural worlds way of loving.

Kindness can be worked out in three main ways.

1/. Actions. 2/. Words. 3/. Prayer.

Who are our enemies?

1/. Those who hate you.

To hate is the complete opposite of to love. To hate here means to hold feelings of detestation, disgust, abhorrence etc. This hatred spoken of by Jesus however is not the same as persecution as it is not described by its actions. That person in your work place, school or neighbourhood that you've heard can't abide to be with you for some reason. One who shows a complete disregard for your presence or feelings. They could be sat at home not actually hurting you physically or emotionally but holding hatred in their hearts for you. Today, much of the hatred in our world is caused by jealousy over status, religious or racial differences. It can also be brought into the world of sports and music and other group interests and hobbies. Hatred is a spirit that causes one person to detest another, even to the point of murder.

2/. Those who curse you...Meaning to wish and speak evil against you (in the sense of a prayer) that you may come to harm. Pronouncing evil desires over your life. Such as “I hope you choke on it. You are stupid and will amount to nothing in your life.”

3/. Those who persecute you and do despitefully use you.....To persecute means to actually follow you around with the intent to cause emotional or physical harm.

To despitefully use you means to bring your name into disrepute through slanderous talk, false accusations and insults.



Question: How do we deal with these three situations? What are the spiritual weapons we are called to use?

How we are called to respond.

1/. Those who hate you. Jesus said to destroy the power of this spirit over our enemies we must do the opposite to what it wants. This spirit would try to make us hate back, to breed more resentment and ill feelings between us. But Jesus said to do good to the one who hates you. An act of unmerited kindness will destroy the ability of this spirit to cause you to hate. It may even make a person's hatred for you change into one of acceptance, even friendship.

2/. Those who curse you. Jesus instructs us not to return evil for evil but to bless those that curse you. To speak good over a person. To pronounce the blessing of God over them is to demonstrate verbally the kindness of God towards them. God loves you. God wants you and your family to prosper and be in health.

3/. Those who persecute you and do despite fully use you.

Praying for these people is what God requires of us. For them to be saved, blessed, healed, delivered. Kindness does not retaliate, pray evil things over them or hope they come to harm.

29 If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also.

Ancient form of humiliation. Like Saddam Hussain and the dap. When physically or emotionally humiliated we can often fall into the trap of trying to gain back our pride by lashing out and humiliating them back. Allowing them to humiliate us in public and not retaliating in order to gain the upper hand is a complete act of selfless kindness. Though they may not ever realise it nor appreciate it, God sees.

If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic.

This refers to a law suit. If you are being sued for something, we are instructed to let go of the fight to hold onto our possessions. Rather live in peace than resist with worry and strife.

Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

The word ASK, refers to one who is requesting something from someone who is of a higher standing. e.g. Peasant to king. Poor to rich. Man to God. It means that if we have the means to meet the need we must not withhold what is right to give and if they take what we offer, we are not to make demands on them for it back.

Jesus said, **vs 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.**



Question: How would we like to be treated by others given the situations being reversed?

This is a very good way of finding solutions to problems we face providing our decisions are biblically based.

Jesus lives by His own principles.

While hanging on the cross, hated, cursed, persecuted, falsely accused, slandered, insulted and beaten, He does all that He can do for them. He prays, **“Father forgive them.”**

Jesus did something for us that He would have us do for Him. He gave His life for His enemies. We were enemies of God. World lovers, God haters. Yet He loved us and died for us. He loved us, His enemies. He did good towards us who hated Him. He blessed us who cursed His name. We tried to rob Him of His dignity, reputation, sanity, family, friends, freedom and finally His life.

God calls us to a total dependency on Him for all our needs.

Matt 6 : 31- 34. 31So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Luke 6 : 35-36. 35But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Gal 6 : 9-10. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

The challenge is to rise to a level of faith in God where we trust God to provide for all our needs as we let go of all our rights.

Question: Are there people we know that we need to do good to, to bless with our mouths or to pray for?

