

"WE THE CHURCH... KINDNESS"

Date: April 19, 2020

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WE, THE CHURCH...

(Vs) Gal. 5:22,23 ESV – "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Kindness is underrated by many and yet it shouldn't be...

(Vs) Hosea 6:6 DBY – "For I delight in loving-kindness, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt-offerings."

(Vs) Micah 6:8 NRSV – "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

- The Bible actually presents a very compelling, portrait of kindness...

True kindness is Spirit-produced.

- When Paul laid out his case to the church in Corinth that he was a true apostle, he did so by detailing the trials he endured for the sake of the gospel.
- Surprisingly, kindness made his list of spiritual fruit...

(Vs) 2nd Cor. 6:4-6 – "but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way..."

- He's saying... "You want proof I'm an apostle? Okay, here it is: I'm kind."

"Kindness is a supernaturally generous orientation of our hearts toward other people, even when they don't deserve it and don't love us in return."

- ...This definition is based on God's kindness which is meant to lead people to repentance...

(Vs) Rom. 2:4 – "Or do you presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"

- Once in this repentant place, admitting that we are receiving kindness we don't deserve...

We imitate God's kindness, by loving our enemies.

Jesus said... (Vs) Luke 6:35 ESV – *“Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.”*

- And so... Our kindness reflects the heart of our Father.

(Vs) Ephesians 4:32 – *“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”*

- We struggle to do this because of how it feels to be kind to people who don't deserve it...

Kindness often feels painful.

(Vs) Psalm 141:5 – *“Let a righteous man strike me — it is a kindness; let him rebuke me — it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it.”*

- When Jesus called the Pharisees a brood of vipers... That wasn't pleasant, but it was kind, because Jesus was exposing their sin... A kind physician cuts deep to get your cancer.
- Without this pain, kindness cannot heal or make whole as it should...

Kindness is Powerful.

- Question: Are We Kind?
- Are we generously inclined toward those around us, or do we think and speak harshly to, or about, them? – Where would our letters end up in people's lives?
- Do we too often twist the verbal knife of cruel sarcasm, saying what we don't mean in order to drive home more deeply what we do?
- It's quite clear that Kindness is no small thing...
- When we open ourselves to the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit, when we ask Him to produce in us kind hearts that overflow through kind lips...
- It yields marvelous fruit both in our lives and the lives of those around us.

(Vs) Proverbs 21:21 – *“Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.”* – This is the way of God; this is how we overcome!