

Authentic Living

Kindness

Sunday, October 13, 2019

Galatians 5:23; Colossians 3:12

Introduction

“Kindness is love’s conduct, show it!”

God has demonstrated kindness to undeserving mankind, so we must demonstrate kindness to others expecting nothing in return.

I. God’s Kindness

Kindness is God’s beneficial provision that meets the need of sinful man.

“Nelson’s Bible Dictionary says, “Kindness is not an apathetic response to sin, but a deliberate act to bring the sinner back to God”

“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.” Romans 2:4

“For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to our various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others, and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy...” Titus 3:3-5

“Kindness is the attitude God has when he interacts with people. God has a right to insist on our immediate and total conformity to his will, and he could be quite harsh with us in getting us to conform. But he is not harsh. He treats us as a good father might treat a learning child. This is our pattern.” J.M. Boice

II. Spirit-Empowered Kindness

We are living in a world that is growing hostile toward each other, what an opportunity to display kindness – Spirit-empowered kindness to this lost and dying world.

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...” Colossians 3:12

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

“Love is patient, love is kind...” 1 Corinthians 13:4

Agape love or God’s love is these characteristics. Kindness is love’s conduct!

“Kindness is a language that the deaf can hear and the blind can read.” Mark Twain

“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? Even the sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But 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. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:32-36

Biblical example of kindness – David with Mephibosheth

“And David said, ‘Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness of Jonathan’s sake?’ 2 Samuel 9:1

This is a veiled picture of the infinite kindness of God! Everyone of us has experienced even a greater kindness, for we are now children of the King and are able to enjoy His presence forever! What kindness!

III. Conclusion

*“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
Philippians 2:1-4*

Questions

- 1) How can you ‘put on’ kindness daily?
- 2) Does the kindness I show to others reflect God’s kindness to me?
- 3) Do I seek to gain from the kindness I show or is it pure kindness? How do you know?
- 4) How does this statement affect you, *“Kindness is not an apathetic response to sin, but a deliberate act to bring the sinner back to God”*
- 5) Read and discuss Luke 6:32-36