

KINDNESS

Christian Character in Action: Lesson 11

6 May 2022

KINDNESS: —Goodwill. Benevolence. That temper or disposition which delights in contributing to the happiness of others, which is exercised cheerfully in gratifying their wishes or supplying their wants or alleviating their distresses. Kindness ever accompanies love.

“Let each esteem other better than themselves.” (Philippians 2:3).

Gen 50:19-21 Joseph found himself in a place where he was able to bestow a great kindness upon his brothers, not accounting for the great evil that they had done against him.

- Joseph recognized how kind God had been to him and chose to do likewise to others.
- Kindness is not reciprocal. It is not payback for kindness received.

Prov 31:26 The virtuous woman imposed upon herself a law of kindness. She decided that she was going to be kind to others no matter how they treated her. She would abide by this decision as one who is obeying a law.

Gen 24:12 Abraham’s servant begged God to bestow kindness upon his master, Abraham.

Gen 40:12 Joseph asked Pharaoh’s cup bearer to remember him and show him kindness.

Josh 2:12 Rahab begged kindness from the Jewish spies, knowing God would destroy her city.

2 Sam 9:1 David wanted to honor his friend Jonathan by showing kindness to a member of his family.

Gen 34:3 Shechem spoke kindly to Dinah because he loved her.

Prov 19:22 **The desire of a man is his KINDNESS...** Why are you kind? If you sincerely desire to be a blessing to someone, that is true biblical kindness.

- If you are only kind to someone if they’re kind to you first, that is not true kindness.
 - That is a characteristic of the flesh.
 - Kindness is expected of Christians. It is not exceptional behavior; it is part of the (ordinary) Christian life.
 - We are channels of blessing. Christ is always kind to me. I will pass that on to others.
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- Luke 6:31-36** How do you want to be treated? Treat others the same (vs 31). Don't just love those who love you. That's easy (32-33). Don't do good to others with any expectation of getting the same treatment back in return (34).
- Love your enemies, do good, don't expect anything in return (vs 35).
 - God is the example. He is kind to the unthankful and to the evil (vs 35). We are expected to be like Him (vs 36).
 - God is kind to us every day, and we are unthankful.
 - He is kind to the evil. We sin and excuse it, and God is still kind.
 - Be merciful like God. Don't seek revenge. Don't pay back evil.
- Ruth 1:8** Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth lost their husbands. They will never be repaid for their kindnesses toward their husbands. But these women were not kind to their husbands because they wanted something in return.
- Be kind to everyone. Don't expect anything in return. Desire that they benefit.
- Psalms 117** God gives me merciful kindness.
- Merciful: He didn't give me what I deserved.
 - Kindness: He treated me in a way that is best for me.
 - We are to treat others the way God has treated us.
- Eph 2:4-7** In eternity, we will be on display as proof of God's great kindness.
- Consider how many times you rejected Christ before you finally received Him. God kept sending witnesses, conviction, invitations, and circumstances, trying to save you and give you eternal life.
- Rom 12:10** How can you be kind to others? Prefer them. Decide to make them happy, whatever the cost.
- Col 3:12** Put on kindness.
- 2 Pet 1:5-8** The first evidence of godliness is brotherly kindness (vs 7). You cannot bear fruit in your life if you do not learn to treat people with kindness (vs 8).
- 1 Cor 13:4** **Charity suffereth long, and is kind.** God wants us to BE kind. If we ARE kind, we'll BE kind. Don't let kindness be dependent on your situation (in the passion a moment). Let kindness become part of who you really are (kindly affectioned). (Rom 12:10)
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