

KINDNESS: THE SOCIAL VIRTUE

Is our world kind?

Is my life characterized by kindness?

Starting Text: Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, KINDNESS, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is KIND. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

Once we are Christians "The nature of God himself begins to manifest itself in our lives."

(The College Press NIV Commentary: Galatians & Ephesians, Kenneth L. Boles, 147)

Kind—gracious, decent, active in meeting people's needs with a humble demonstration of God's love.

I. KINDNESS COMES FROM THE _____ OF GOD

Ephesians 2:7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus

Romans 2:4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Kindness is to behave towards others as God has behaved towards US.

Kindness—to love practically and intentionally.

"We can do no great things—only small things with great love." --Mother Teresa

II. THE _____ - OF KINDNESS

David and Nabal and Abigail

KINDNESS JUST MAKES LIFE BETTER

KINDNESS WITH OURSELVES

KINDNESS CAN BRING HEALING

KINDNESS CAN UNLEASH CALLING

III. PLANT KINDNESS USUALLY YOU _____

Kindness needs to be a way of life, not an occasional act.

"Beware of the barrenness of a busy life." —Socrates (Love As A Way Of Life, Gary Chapman, 23)

Luke 15:2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

HOMEWORK: Do at least a couple acts of kindness this week!

Getting Started

Here are some simple ways to show kindness in everyday life. I'm sure you can think of many more.

- Give a store clerk a compliment.
- Hold the door open for someone.
- Smile at a child. If he initiates conversation with you, listen.
- Host a free car wash in your community.
- Let the person behind you in line at the grocery store check out first.
- Share your umbrella with someone when it's raining.
- When going through a toll booth, pay the toll of the car behind you as well as your own.
- Mow your neighbor's grass, rake her leaves, or shovel her walk.
- Visit an elderly person.
- Tip people well.
- When someone is going through a difficult time, suggest things you might do to help, such as get groceries, watch the children, and clean the house, rather than say, "Let me know if I can help."
- Get several people together and go door-to-door in a neighborhood, asking if you can do yard work at no charge.
- Take your assistant out to lunch on her birthday.
- Be aware of what makes a friend or family member feel loved, and strive to communicate love in that way.
- If you notice someone excelling at his job, look for an opportunity to tell his boss.
- Call someone who has experienced a death in the family, even if the loss is not recent.
- Stop at a child's lemonade stand and buy yourself a drink.

(Love As A Way Of Life, Gary Chapman, 28)

CONCLUSION:

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 kindness flows from the kindness of God to us.