

Kindness

I. When you think of the word Kindness, what comes to mind?

II. The dictionary defines kindness as...

1. The quality of being kind
2. Good will
3. A kind act

III. But is this the same way the Bible defines it?

IV. The root word for kindness in the Greek is **χρηστος** (Chrestos)

A. Vines defines kindness as “goodness of heart”

B. Vincent states it is a kindness which is useful or serviceable, a kindly disposition to ones neighbor.

C. Bauer refers to it as uprightness, to do what is right, generosity.

V. Although we have these definitions to help us understand what kindness is, one of the best ways to define something is to consider how it is used in the context of God’s word.

Trans: The greatest example we can find to help us define kindness would be God. He is a perfect example of what Kindness truly is.

1. God’s example of Kindness

A. Kindness was often used in describing what God did for us in Jesus.

1. God’s kindness was demonstrated in the sending of Jesus, **Titus 3:3-7**

a. In His kindness God saved us according to His mercy, **v.5**

b. In His kindness we have been justified by his grace, **v.7**

c. In His kindness we have been made heirs according to the hope of eternal life, **v.7**

2. God’s kindness leads to repentance, **Rom. 2:4**

3. God’s kindness grafts us into His family, **Rom. 11:22**

4. Kittel writes concerning kindness, “In reference to God it denotes God’s gracious attitude and acts toward sinners both before Christ and in and through Christ.”

B. From God’s example then we see that Kindness involves a selfless attitude. In all that God did and does we see a kindness that is selfless.

- C. When we consider the kindness of the world, often times it is a self serving kindness.
1. The person who kindly waits for you to back out of your parking spot. This can be self serving because they want your spot.
 2. The family that takes care of an elderly relative, in hopes of receiving an inheritance.

Appl: True Biblical kindness, as seen in the example of God, stems from a love one has for another.

Kindness is not simply doing something kind. The reason behind it is just as important.

Our actions must be motivated by a selfless heart.

Trans: Having a clearer understanding of God's kindness, lets now consider how we as Christians can show forth kindness in our lives.

2. The Christian and Kindness

A. Following the example of God, Kindness is an act of love demonstrated by doing something for someone in a selfless way.

1. **Matt. 25:31-40** - At the judgment

- a. vs. 35; Food was given, Drink was given, stranger was invited in.
- b. vs. 36; Cloths were given; the sick were visited; those in prison were visited.

2. **Luke 10:30-37** - The parable of the good Samaritan

- a. vs. 33 - We see an inward kindness, He felt compassion
- b. vs. 34 -This caused an outward show of kindness
- c. The actions of the Samaritan were not done for his own gain, no one was around when he started and he went well beyond any selfish act.
- d. Jesus makes it clear that this was not done for selfish gain, **v.37**

3. In these examples it is clear the motive for doing what they did was love. These acts were recognizable selfless acts of kindness.

C. But for kindness to be true kindness it is to be shown to all people

1. This is similar to loving your enemies, **Matt. 5:44-48**

2. It's easy to show kindness to those who are easy to get along with. It's harder when dealing with those who are mean and spiteful, but we must.

Rom. 12:17-21

3. **Rom. 5:8-10**

D. Still there is another aspect of kindness must be considered

1. Biblical kindness involves a true benefit to the one receiving it. It is demonstrated without seeking some kind of personal gain. It is demonstrated even if it cost something.

2. That being the case an act that seems to have all the qualities of kindness, done out of love, selfless, and a benefit for the one done for, may not be kindness.

3. **2Thess. 3:10**

4. It is of no benefit to assist one unwilling to do his part to stay lazy.

App! Biblical kindness as seen in the Christian life is motivated by a loving selfless heart.

For kindness to be real in the life of a Christian it must extend beyond our comfort zone and reach out to all who are in need.

But for kindness to be truly kind there must be a true benefit for the one receiving it.

Con: In considering true Biblical kindness Jesus is a great example for us.

All kinds of people came to him and because of His compassion He took care of them. All of these people were not followers of His. Some were just searching. Some He just came upon and they needed his help, **Luke. 7:11-15**