

## #2 PROPERTIES OF LOVE: IS KIND (1 Cor 13:4)

- A. Paul's first two descriptions of love are paired together & balance each other perfectly: Suffers long (passive) & being kind (active).
- B. The word "kind" (chresteuomai: khraste-yoo'-om-ahee) means to show oneself useful, i.e. act benevolently.
1. Patience is the trait that will stop us from hurting someone who has hurt us, but kindness will move us to do something good for that person.
  2. Kindness is a readiness to do good, to help, to relieve burdens, to be useful, to serve, to be sympathetic toward others – "Kindness is love in work clothes."
  3. So kindness is more than just having a sweet disposition, *it is a conscious desire to be of the greatest use & benefit to others* – even to those people who don't like you.

C. In contrast, much of what has been done in the name of our Lord & Savior is unkind.

1. Phillip II of Spain was a very religious man, but he founded the Spanish inquisition & thought he was serving God by executing people accused of "heresy".
2. Though we may not have a persecuting spirit we can still be unkind by being harsh & critical.
  - a. Unkindness is often justified by the statement, "I said or did that for his own good." "He had it coming to him."

[Remember what Paul said to the Thessalonians when they were new Christians & struggling to overcome their former way of life. "*We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children*" (1 Thess. 2:7).

That's not only how we should deal with new Christians, but every member.]

## I. GOD IS KIND

### A. Merciful & Generous (To Sinners)

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**Luke 6:35-36** – ...For **He** [the Most High] **is kind to the unthankful & evil.** 36  
Therefore **be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.**

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**Matt 5:45** – ...for **He** [your Father in heaven] **makes His sun rise on the evil**  
& on the good, & **sends rain on the just & on the unjust.**

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1. The kindness of God is showered upon those who are undeserving.

### B. Tolerant & Patient (To The Jews)

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**Rom 2:4** – Or **do you** [Jews] **despise the riches of His goodness kindness**, forbearance [tolerance], & longsuffering [patience], not knowing that **the goodness kindness of God leads you to repentance?**

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1. Because God was patient with the Jews, He was finally able to show “the riches of His kindness” through Jesus Christ.

### C. Conditional (Jewish Christians)

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**Rom 11:22** – Therefore **consider the goodness kindness** & severity of **God**: on those who fell, severity [unbelieving Jews]; but **toward you, goodness kindness, if you continue in His** [added] **goodness kindness**.  
Otherwise you also will be cut off.

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1. To continue being a beneficiary of God's kindness, we must continue to show that same kindness toward others, & toward each other, that the Father has shown to us.

### D. Demonstrated By Jesus' Work

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**Titus 3:4-7** – But **when the kindness & the love of God our Savior toward man appeared**, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy **He saved us**, through the washing of regeneration & renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly **through Jesus Christ our Savior**, 7 that having been **justified by His grace** we should become **heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

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1. Notice the useful & benevolent gifts of God that are associated with His kindness.

## E. Demonstrated By Jesus' Teaching

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**Matt 11:28-30** – Come to Me, all you who labor & are heavy laden, & I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you & learn from Me, for I am gentle & lowly in heart, & you will find rest for your souls. 30 For ***My yoke is easy*** ***[kind]*** & My burden is light.”

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1. The yoke of Christ is a metaphor of the responsibility involved in doing His will.
  - a. Jesus was contrasting the will of God with the demands of the Pharisees.
  - b. The kind yoke of Christ is tailor made to our abilities & our nature, because the God who made us designed that yoke.

[So to even begin to understand how love is kind we have to know the character of God.

Paul commanded, “And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph 4:32).]

## II. GROWING IN KINDESS

### A. Desire The Kindness Of The Lord

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**1 Pet 2:1-3** – Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, & all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, ***desire the pure milk of the word***, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that ***the Lord is gracious*** ***[kind]***.

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1. Peter says the Christian can *taste* that God is “gracious” or kind.
  - a. When you *taste* something delicious, how does it affect you? You want more of it!
  - b. So if you have *tasted* the kindness (benevolence) of the Lord, then you should want more of it.
  - c. The way to secure more of God’s kindness is by “*laying aside*” some evil habits & longing for the pure word of God.

2. Spiritual maturity isn't like physical maturity, you can't just count up how many years you've been a Christian, spiritual maturity is measured by how much we are like the Lord.

a. If we are maturing then we will be demonstrating the kindness of the Lord.

## B. Give Kindness Some Forethought

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**Col 3:12-13** – Therefore, as the elect of God, holy & beloved, **put on** tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

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1. Do we give as much forethought to these traits, which include kindness (usefulness, benevolence) as we do the clothes we planned to wear?

## C. Accept The Risks Of Kindness

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**Luke 6:35** – But **love your enemies, do good, & lend, hoping for nothing in return**; & your reward will be great, & you will be sons of the Most High. For **He is kind to the unthankful & evil**.

**Matt 5:44-45** – But I say to you, **love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, & pray for those who spitefully use you & persecute you**, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;

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1. The Lord tells us there is RISK to being kind, but God took the risk first.

a. We might have been risking a little time & money, or maybe being teased.

b. But God was risking the destiny of a soul that He had created & cared for.

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Rong & Mae Kuo held a weekly Bible class in their home for the Chinese, & afterward served Chinese cuisine. After participating in the Bible study for several weeks, some of us began to realize that most of those people were present for the food, association, & to brush up on their English. So we expressed our concern that their guests were taking advantage of their good nature & hospitality. The response was, "*We know, but we're willing to risk it for the sake of their souls*".

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## CLOSING

- A. Kindness is a much needed virtue; we just don't see it that often today.
1. People will quickly act to defend their honor or to watch someone get what's coming to them.
  2. But how many people will go out of their way to do an act of kindness?
  3. Often, the people we are the least patient with & kind to are those closest to us.
    - a. The church at Corinth was not showing kindness to each other because they were too busy demanding their rights.
    - b. Consider how kindness could improve the relationships in our homes.

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**Prov 31:26** – She [the virtuous wife] opens her mouth with wisdom, & ***on her tongue is the law of kindness***. **Prov 19:22** – ***What is desired in a man is kindness, & a poor man is better than a liar.***

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