

Love Is Kind 2017-06-18

1 Cor 13:4....Love is patient and kind.

Virtues of love are interdependent, they overlap one another and imply one another

- Kindness is patience in action.
 - Patience is passive, non-retaliating side of love while kindness is active, self-sacrificing side of love.
- Patience endures offenses/sin/frustrations and in response kindness returns only good/useful deeds. 1 Cor 13:4, Lk 6:27-28

Greekk root *chrēstotēs* = “useful”: Not simply sweet attitude but useful actions/deeds.

- true character of kindness is giving to others—help, time, forgiveness, money, self
 - seeks to do physical, emotional, & eternal good with every thought, word, deed to others from heart of good will without desiring reward.
- More interested in welfare of others than self. Especially those who “test” you
 - Context: Corinthian church of selfish, cruel sinners in hard/evil world.

Kindness takes initiative in responding to harsh treatment and other people's needs and is not based on character, conduct, or response toward us.

- Type of undeserved common kindness God has for all... *Ps 145:9, Lk 6:35*
 - God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance. *Mt. 5:44-45, Rom 2:4, Titus 3:4, Eph 2:7*
 - Exemplified in person/work of Jesus Christ. Good Samaritan.
- Special unmerited kindness toward Christians simply because of God's will & grace includes election, Jesus Christ's imputed righteousness, blessings, protection

God's kindness intended to glorify Himself and be the foundation for our ability to be kind to others, especially who don't deserve it. *Lk 6:35, Eph 4:32, 2 Tim 2:24, 1 Thess 5:15*

- The kindness of 2nd century Christians so surprised pagans that they included a Greekk word for “made up of kindness” (ch-res-tiani) as part of the Christians' name.
 - Kindness should characterize all Christians but many times it doesn't.

As with patience, the real proving ground is in the home.

- If we are kind, self-controlled outside of home, why not with those we love most?
 - Same reasons we are impatient: self-centered, short sighted, self-righteous.
- Do not focus on your rights or what you think you deserve but on the willingness to be walked on if it benefits/serves someone else.
 - Not giving/doing what they want. Withhold harmful.
 - Unkind/cruel to say/do nothing and let harm/sin continue.
- But must repay anger/hurt with kindness/good despite other person's character, conduct, & responses toward uslike God does toward you!

Kindness can begin to heal hurts of not only your family but also have healing & positive effect on church, community, world.

- The lost do not understand His love unless they witness *1 Cor 13:4* kindness.
 - Context: kind with every thought, word, deed especially > difficult people.
 - Start: daily speak kindly in words/tone to others whether they are kind, indifferent or angry toward you.. *Prov 15:1, Ps 19:14, Gal 5:22, Eph. 4:32*

Being consistently kind to others can be part of Christians' life because God's kindness toward us in the cross is the foundation and source for our ability to be kind to others.