

Lesson 13



Developing Kindness Pam Schaedel

*But love your enemies,
and do good, and lend,
expecting nothing in return;
and your reward will be great,
and you will be sons of the Most High;
for He Himself is kind
to ungrateful and evil men.
~ Luke 6:35*



God Himself is the Source of Kindness

God's kindness and love reached out to us.

For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. ⁴But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:3-5)

*Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?
(Romans 2:4)*

(1 John 4:16)

His kindness was perfectly displayed in His Son, our Savior.

Jesus went about doing good. (Acts 10:38)

Teaching, proclaiming, healing . . . (Matthew 4:23)

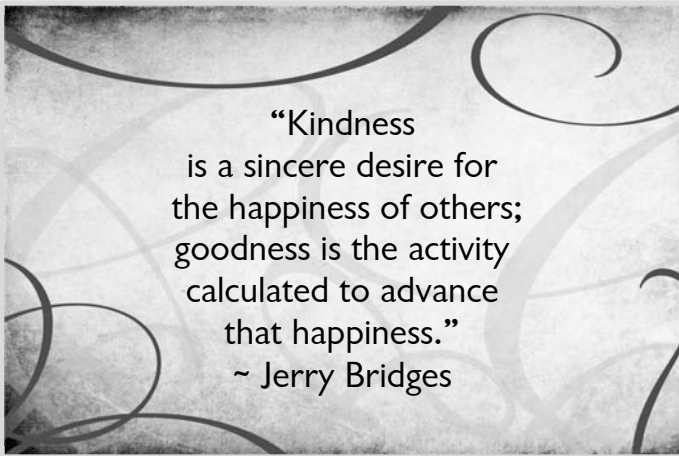
Jesus fulfilled everything God had for Him to do.

(John 17:4-8)

The Meaning of Kindness

Dictionary Meaning of Kindness

- Affection, benevolence, courtesy, grace, favor, mercy. Root word has meaning of mercy, pity, good deeds, lovingkindness. Translated in our Bible: gracious, gentle, mellow, good, better, easy.
- Psalm 145:7, 17 *The Lord is righteous in all His ways, and kind in all His deeds.* Psalm 31:19, 106:1, 107:1 Not speaking of God's moral goodness, but His kindness to us relationally. Kindness fits under the large umbrella of love.
- (Pastor Minnick, 12/16/1990; Message: *Kindness*) Matthew 11:30 *For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.* The word easy means; well suited, fit, not abusive, adaptable, soothing.



“Kindness is an inner disposition . . .
Goodness is kindness in action.”
~ Jerry Bridges

“Kindness always plays the gentle part.”

Teaching Our Children to be Kind as We Endeavor to be Kind

Through an understanding of God's Word

- Kindness is not natural.

There is none righteous . . . none who seeks for God . . . there is none who does good (or is kind). (Romans 3:11-12)

- Jesus says, *Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God.* (Matthew 19:17-18, KJV)

Be Ye Kind

- It is a command.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works. (Ephesians 2:10)

- Titus is full of exhortations to be kind.
- Biblical Examples of Kindness: Dorcas, was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did (Acts 9:36); Proverbs 31:26

Remember ARMSS

- **Affection**

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love, give preference to one another in honor . . . contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. (Romans 12:10-16)

- **Respect**

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. (1 John 3:16-18)

- **Material Need**

Have brotherly kindness. (1 John 4:7-17)

- **Sympathy**

Summed up Peter says, *be harmonious, sympathetic . . . not returning evil for evil . . . Do Good.* (1 Peter 3:8-11)

- **Sensitivity**

Sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart. (1 Peter 1:22)

By Application

- Esteem Kindness: It is a godly characteristic.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you . . . By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:34-35)

- Be Kind to Everyone.

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. (Luke 6:33-35)

- Let Kindness Reign—even when it would be natural to take offense. (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-14)
- Kindness includes Forgiving. (1 Peter 4:8)
- Be Kind Parents. (Ephesians 6:4-7)

Challenges to Kindness

- The Flesh—sinfulness and self-absorption
- Time—responsibilities and pleasures
- Distractions—the world and all its allurements
- Our Tongue

Kindness Fulfilled

Prayer

Our great example, Jesus, spent much time in prayer.

But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray. (Luke 5:16)

Priorities

¹⁷Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. ¹⁸Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. (I Timothy 6:17-19)

Plans: Yielded to God

So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)

Power: Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Only by the empowering of the Holy Spirit Romans 15:13; Ephesians 5:1,2 Help from above; Hebrews 4:15 *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin;* 1 Corinthians 9:8; 2 Corinthians 12:9



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