

Having considered the first attribute of love this morning—"love is longsuffering"—we come the evening to the second—"love is kind"—these two (as we shall soon see)—go together as two sides of the same coin—one is negative the other positive—longsuffering describes what we don't do—while kindness—shows what we do...

- I. What is kindness?
- II. How should we show kindness?
- III. Who should be shown kindness?
- IV. Why should we show kindness?

I. What is kindness?

1. The Greek word translated "kind"—literally means—"to show gentleness, kindness, or goodness to others..."
2. Synonyms of kindness would be—compassion, gentleness, benevolence, thoughtfulness, consideration, and helpfulness...
3. Thus—the word kindness carries with it two important concepts—[1] gentleness (inward), and [2] goodness (outward)...
4. Notice [1] gentleness—this has reference—to the inner disposition of kindness—it is gentle, mild, or kind...
5. Thus—compassion and kindness are at times brought together, Col.3:12—"put on a heart of compassion and kindness..."
6. Kindness is more than "doing"—but—it is "doing" from a heart of compassion—or—for the right reasons...
7. We sometimes speak of kindness in this way—when we describe someone as having—a kind or gentle temper...
8. We mean they are gentle or mild—they have a sweet disposition—a calm or caring heart—a tender temperament...
9. Thus—kindness—we could say—begins within the heart—it originates from a changed heart—a heart of compassion...
10. Notice [2] goodness—this refers more—to the outer activity of kindness—to being useful or helpful to others...
11. Charles Hodge—"The root of the GK verb means *useful*, and hence its primary sense is *disposed to be useful*..."
12. Thus—at the very heart of "kindness"—is the concept of usefulness—of being gracious and good to others...
13. Thus—being kind and showing kindness— isn't merely activity—but is activity—which results from compassion...
14. Marry Beeke—"Kindness consists of two parts: first, the feelings of compassion and motives of our hearts, and second, the resulting behavior that is intended for the improvement of another person's situation..."
15. For example—you let a young mother go before you in line at the grocery store—what is this—but kindness...
16. Or else—you are walking into a building—and you open the door for a lady—you're again—showing kindness...
17. Paul says—love is kind—it shows kindness—that is—it shows goodness to those in need—to those in distress...
18. Acts 28:2—"and the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold..."
19. The natives showed kindness to the disciples—by kindling a fire to warm them and making them feel welcome...
20. Thus—both the Old and NT oftentimes—interchange the words "kind" and "good"—as they are closely related...

21. To be kind is another way of saying—to be good or show good to others—to show kindness by doing good...
22. The last thing I want to say—concerning the meaning of this word—is to remind you of its relation to longsuffering...
23. V4—"love is long suffering and is kind—that is—love not only refuses to get even—it responds positively...
24. Kindness is the proper response or reaction towards them who mistreat us—love is longsuffering and kind...
25. Charles Hodge—"Love is slow to resent evil, but is quick to do good"—that is—love is longsuffering and kind...

II. How should we show kindness?

1. That is—how does kindness show itself—or—what are the primary ways in which we can show kindness...
2. Notice [1] spiritually—that is—we should show kindness by showing and doing good to the souls of others...
3. We can show spiritual good to saint and sinner alike—we can instruct, encourage, and pray for their good...
4. Notice [a] we can show spiritual good to sinners—we can speak to them and pray for their eternal salvation...
5. What better way to show good to a person—than to be the means of God—to save their souls from eternal ruin...
6. How contrary this to fallen man's opinion—most people think it's unkind—to tell a man about his spiritual needs...
7. To tell another man about his sin—the wrath to come—and salvation in Christ—is cruel, mean, and nasty...
8. How contrary is our text—love is kind—love desires the good of others—love wants to be useful—to be of use...
9. Thus—it's not mean, unloving, or unkind—to tell others the truth—but instead—the very essence of kindness...
10. Jas.5:19-20—"brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins..."
11. I suggest to this is the ultimate act of kindness—James describes a person within the church—who falls away...
12. Perhaps—at one time he was a member of the church—and then he starts missing a meeting here and there...
13. Before you know it—he stops coming to church all-together—only to find out—he's fallen into gross and open sin...
14. Members of this church don't give up—but begin to pray fervently for him—exhorting him to repent and return...
15. The phrase—"and someone turns him back"—must be understood in a qualified sense—that is—as the human means...
16. Such a person—"will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins"—what an act of eternal kindness...
17. Edwards—"Men may do good to the souls of vicious persons, by being the means of reclaiming them from their vicious courses; or to the souls of neglecters of the sanctuary, by persuading them to go to the house of God; or to the souls of secure and careless sinners, by putting them in mind of their misery and danger; and so may be the instruments of awakening them, and the means of their conversion, and of bringing them home to Christ..."
18. Notice [b] we can show spiritual good to saints—we can instruct and comfort them and pray for their maturity...

19. We can pray for them—we can encourage them—we can instruct them—we can befriend them and assist them...
20. Edwards—"Saints, too, may be the instruments of comforting and establishing one another, and of strengthening one another in faith and obedience; of quickening, and animating, and edifying one another; of raising one another out of dull and dead frames, and helping one another out of temptations, and onward in the divine life; of directing one another in doubtful and difficult cases; of encouraging one another under darkness or in trial; and, generally, of promoting each other's spiritual joy and strength, and thus being mutually fellow-helpers on their way to glory..."
21. Notice [2] physically—we should show kindness to others—by assisting in their temporal and material needs...
22. Edwards—"We may do good to others, by furthering their outward estate or substance; or in aiding their good name, and thus promoting their esteem and acceptance among men; or by anything that may truly add to their comfort or happiness in the world, whether it be in the kind word, or the considerate and benevolent deed..."
23. Thus—what I want to do at this point—is examine two texts—which imposes this obligation upon rich and poor...
24. 1Tim.6:17-18—"command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share..."
25. Eph.4:28—"let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need..."

III. Who should be shown kindness?

1. In short—we should show kindness to everyone without exception—we are to love our neighbor as ourselves...
2. Thus—let me make very clear—the Scriptures command us to be kind to all people—family and friends alike...
3. Yet—I want to focus on three groups of people—to whom kindness is due—enemies, brethren, and families...
4. Notice [1] our enemies—that is—those who mistreat us and even abuse us—wicked and unthankful people...
5. Matt.5:43-45—"you have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust..."
6. Notice [a] what we are to do, v44—"but I say to you, love your enemies"—we are to show kindness to our enemies...
7. Notice [b] how we are to do it, v44—"bless those who curse you"—that is—refrain from repaying evil for evil...
8. Notice the next two phrases—"do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you..."
9. To "do good"—refers to physical kindness—"pray for those"—refers to spiritual kindness—i.e. love is kind...
10. Notice [c] why we are to do it, v45—"that you may be sons of your father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust..."
11. That is—showing kindness to our enemies—manifests we are sons—it enables us to imitate our heavenly father...
12. Notice [2] our brethren—by this of course I mean—to those who are fellow members of the same church...
13. Gal.6:9-10—"and let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith..."

14. Notice [a] as we have opportunity—let us do good to all—to all people—in and out the church—Christian or not...
15. Notice [b] as we have opportunity—let us do good especially to those who are of the household of the faith..."
16. That is—let us especially show kindness to those within the church—especially those of our own local church...
17. Notice [3] our families, Prov.31:26—"she opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue *is* the law of kindness..."
18. This is a description of the virtuous woman—[a] the matter of her instruction—"she opens her mouth with wisdom..."
19. Notice [b] the manner of her instruction—"and on her tongue is the law of kindness"—that is—she speaks with kindness...
20. Why—because she loves those within her household—her husband and children—she tells the truth in love...

IV. Why should we show kindness?

1. Here—I simply want to suggest three reasons or motives—to encourage us—to be kind—or show kindness...
2. Notice [1] because God is kind toward us—He shows kindness toward us both in physical and spiritual ways...
3. Ps.136:1-3—"oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever. 2 Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy *endures* forever. 3 Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy *endures* forever..."
4. Tit.3:3-7—"for we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and 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 and 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 [cp.Eph.2:7]..."
5. Notice [2] because God is kind to all men—and thus—we as His children—should endeavor to imitate Him...
6. Lk.6:35—"but love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil..."
7. Notice [3] because Christ was kind to all, Acts 10:38—"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth...[who] went about doing good..."
8. What a blessed description of our Savior's earthly ministry—"He went about doing good"—showing kindness...
9. Matt.4:23—"and Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people [cp.Matt.9:36; Lk.9:6]..."
10. Notice [a] he showed physical kindness—"healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people..."
11. Notice [b] He showed spiritual kindness—"teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom..."