

Kind Love Part 3

Graciously Desiring and Doing Good to Others

1 Corinthians 13:4; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 2-21-2021

⁴ Love is patient, **love is kind** and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails;
– 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

► The love that God calls us to is one that is uniquely patient and kind.

Patience is the holy restraint of ‘suffering long’ that continues to trust and love in the unplanned place, at the unplanned pace, with difficult people and uncomfortable circumstances, without retaliation and complaining, no matter the degree or duration of the suffering, to the glory of the patient God.

Kindness is graciously desiring and doing good to others, to their souls and to their bodies, in words and deeds, in public and in private, regardless of their sinful attitudes and actions, without hope or expectation of temporal reward, because of God’s kindness to us in Jesus, not only to satisfy temporal needs, but with a desire to satisfy spiritual needs, to the glory of the kind God.

► We are to rest in God’s kindness to us and reflect His kindness to others.

We need to think deeply about the kindness of God! If God is kind and He calls me to be like Him, I need to be saturated in the reality of God’s kindness to me and to others. So, let’s spend some more time today looking at the revelation of God’s kindness in the Scriptures.

1. Kindness is God’s way with His people.

There are three things I want us to see in regard to God’s way with His people regarding kindness (James 5:11; Psalm 145:17):

God is kind in what He promises us for the future. – Ephesians 2:4-7

God promises to be kind to us, to do us only good forever, in the future kingdom of heaven!

God is kind in what He commands us to do. – Matthew 11:28-30

A ‘kind yoke’ is a call to obedience that is kind to you and others.

Why is obedience to the Lord Jesus ‘light’ and ‘not burdensome’? (1 John 5:3)

- We don’t have to try to earn our salvation; we obey from a position of rest or acceptance with God through a childlike faith in Jesus and His finished work.
- We are pursuing our own good and happiness when we obey God’s ‘kind’ commands.
- We have the help of God in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

God is kind in what He requires us to endure. – Psalm 119:65; Psalm 119:68

- Do you believe God has been profoundly and persistently kind to you?

2. God is kind to all, including the proud and unrepentant.

It is hard to show God's kindness to those who are not kind to us and others. - Romans 2:1-6; Luke 18:9-11; Exodus 8:32; Psalm 107; Jonah 3:10-4:2; Ezekiel 33:11

We should not be surprised by the relatively few times God brings swift judgment (indeed, justice) on people, but we should be surprised by how long suffering and kind God is to people who continue to sin against Him and do not reflect His kindness to others!

- Are you being kind to the unkind in your life?

3. God is kind to all, including the ungrateful and evil.

Another really hard thing to do is to continue to show kindness, especially God's kindness, to those who don't appreciate the kindness that has been shown. – Luke 6:27-36; Luke 17:12-19; Matthew 18:30-33; Matthew 5:43-48; Genesis 4:1-16

We are prone to be ungrateful for (and even to demand) the gracious kindness that we experience in this life! Yet God still continues to be kind to us!

- Are you being kind to those who are ungrateful in your life?

Conclusion

What is the good news?

- God is patient and kind to us even when we aren't (obedient, kind).
 - *This patient and kind God* calls you to find all you need and desire in Him.
- Jesus lived and died and rose again for the unkind (those who retaliate or walk away or do evil or don't do the good they could do).
 - *You can be forgiven* if you will turn and trust in Jesus.
- Believers in Jesus are indwelt by the Spirit who enables us to be patient and kind (like God is to us).
 - *You can be more patient and kind* if you will seek God and His grace by giving yourself to the means of grace.