

Kind Love

Graciously Desiring and Doing Good to Others

1 Corinthians 13:4; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 2-7-2021

Love is patient, **love is kind** and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,
– 1 Corinthians 13:4

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, especially in Jesus, not only to satisfy temporal needs, but with a desire to satisfy spiritual needs, to the glory of the kind God.

► **God wants us to trust and love.**

- Trust and love is the bottom line (of action and response) for every person and situation. - Galatians 5:6; 1 John 3:23

The question always is: *How do I need to trust and love this person or in this situation?*

- Love is the goal. - 1 Timothy 1:5

Love involves submission to God's Word.
Love involves submission to God's will.

- Trust is the key. – Hebrews 11:6

Trust involves resting in Jesus for pardon and perfection.
Trust involves hoping in God for help and happiness.

► **Love looks like patience and kindness.**

What does love look like?

- Be patient.
- Be kind.
- Watch out for threats to patience and kindness.
- Do what is right.
- No matter what.

That's a summary of what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13. - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

► **Patience is necessary for kindness to take place.**

Patience is holy restraint regarding retaliation and complaining. Patience continues to trust and love in the face of ongoing suffering ('suffering long'). Patience refuses to shut down, harden one's heart, and walk away, but stays in the relationship.

It is interesting how often patience and kindness or paired in the Scriptures or are part of the same list. – Exodus 34:6-7; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 6:6; Galatians 5:22; Colossians 3:12; 2 Timothy 2:24

► **Kindness is graciously desiring and doing good to others.**

What is the difference between loving a beautiful sunset and loving a rabid dog?

'Love is kind' (verse 4) = 'kind' is put forward in Greek for emphasis!

Chresteumai (Greek): The heart of the matter is a kindness that manifests itself in undeserved *good attitudes and actions* toward another. – Genesis 40:14; 2 Samuel 9:1; Acts 9:36; 28:2; Titus 3:1-14

The main thing in that love which is the sum of the Christian spirit, is benevolence, or goodwill to others. – Jonathan Edwards, *Charity and Its Fruits*

► **God is rich in kindness.**

God's kindness is not simply according to our need, but according to His heart to give! To say God is rich in kindness is to say that He has more than we could ever need and is eager to lavish it on us! - Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 5:7; 86:5, 15; 103:8; Lamentations 3:32; Jonah 4:2; Joel 2:13; Romans 2:4; Psalm 145:15-17; Ephesians 2:7; Psalm 106:1-2 (LXX); Jeremiah 33:10-11 (LXX); Psalm 52:8-9 (LXX); Psalm 69:15-17 (LXX)

Hesed (Hebrew) = 'goodness, kindness' – major description of God; over 240 times in the OT

It is the gracious doing of good to others by not giving what is deserved and by giving what is undeserved. - Exodus 34:6-7; Micah 6:8

'When the person from whom I have a right to expect nothing gives me everything.' – Michael Card on *Hesed* translated 'lovingkindness'

See Psalm 136:1-26

'WE are far too apt to entertain hard thoughts of God. The horrible atheism of our depraved nature continually quarrels with the Most High; and when we are under his afflicting hand, and things go cross to our will, the evil of our nature becomes sadly evident. ... Looking back, we desire, if possible, to blot out every murmuring thought with our tears, and we would cancel every complaining word with humble sorrow. On taking a survey of our whole life, we see that the kindness of God has run all through it like a silver thread. - Charles Spurgeon