

## Love is not "Nice"

Mark McCartin

9-14-25

**1 John 4:10-11** *This is real love (agape) - not that we loved (agapaō) God, but that he loved us and (acted) sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.*

## Love is, Love isn't:

**1 Cor 13:4-7** Love patient. love is Kind. it is not self-seeking, not easily angered. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects...

### Kindness

Rooted in love and truth

Willing to say hard truths when necessary

Motivated by genuine care for others

Has moral depth (fruit of the Spirit)

Christlike (John 1:14 — grace and truth)

### Niceness

Rooted in social approval or politeness

Avoids conflict to maintain peace

Often motivated by a desire to be liked

May be superficial or manipulative

People-pleasing or conflict-avoiding

**Everything God does whether tender or tough – is infused with perfect justice and perfect love**

**Kindness holds Grace and truth in tension / Balance**

**Psa 145:17** *The LORD is **righteous** in all his ways and **kind** in all his works.*

**Deut 32:4** – "All His ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He."

**Exodus 34:6** – "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love..."

God's Justice is never cruel and His Kindness is never unjust

**John 1:14** *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, **full of grace and truth.***

*John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*Jesus confronts sin honestly yet offers mercy freely.*

- John 8 "Go now and leave your life of sin."
- John 4 "Go, call your husband and come back."
- Mark 10 "you still lack one thing"
- Matt 21 "you make it a den of robbers!"

*God's anger, His tough love is always aimed toward repentance and restoration – As is His tender Kindness. Rom 2:4*

**Eph 4:15** *...speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*

*Everything God does whether tender or tough – is infused with perfect justice and perfect love*

**Rom 3:23-26** *...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood--to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness...at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

**Tit 3:4-8** *...be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone. ... But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,*

-----

1. Where in my life have I confused being nice with being kind?
2. In what ways have I withheld truth in the name of "keeping peace"?
3. Do my acts of compassion lead to healing, growth, or merely avoiding guilt or discomfort?
4. Who in my life needs a truth spoken in love, even if it's hard?
5. Am I letting the gospel shape my kindness, or am I driven by sentiment and fear?