



Series: Love First week 5

Sermon Title: Cultivating Kindness

Date: 5/12/2024

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 ESV

God wants you and me to stand out, to be different - to be counter-cultural by being kind in our words and actions. The Apostle Paul explains in Titus 3:3 – it's not always easy to be kind. That's why being kind is a work of the Holy Spirit in us.

Big Idea: Be kind to one another

We will look at three clarifying statements about kindness.

GOD IS KIND AND EXPECTS US TO BE KIND

Luke 6:35

In **Acts 14:17**, Paul talks to a group of people who worship false gods, and he explains that God shows kindness and gives blessings to all of His creations. This includes people who love Him or hate Him, and this is known as common grace. This consists of all undeserved blessings that people receive from the hand of God: rain, the beauty of a sunrise, health, and the ability to work and prosper. **Psalms 145:9**

If you have accepted Jesus as your savior, there was a time before your salvation when you were His enemy – yet He showed His undeserved kindness to you by making the ultimate sacrifice on your behalf and rescuing you from an eternity separated from Him. **Romans 5:8-10**

KINDNESS DOES NOT MEAN WEAKNESS

Kindness is not weakness! It takes strength to be truly kind – strength that comes not from inner grit but a confidence in knowing who you are in Christ and submitting to the leading of the Holy Spirit. People who choose to be kind understand the power that kindness holds.

The Book of Ruth records an account of a man who showed kindness to a widow in need, not because he was weak, but just the opposite. Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi were poor widows. Ruth decided to stay with Naomi and help care for her. **Ruth 1:16**

Ruth was picking scraps of grain for food from the field of a wealthy man named Boaz. Boaz told her **Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled. Ruth 2:9 NIV**

Boaz was wealthy and anything but weak, yet he showed kindness to someone at the bottom of the social rung in that culture.

GOD REWARDS KINDNESS

1 Corinthians 3 says that there are different rewards that God's children will receive in heaven and that God keeps a record of every deed we do – deeds that are useless and ones that are good. The deeds that are useless will be discarded, but the ones that are pleasing to Him will be rewarded in heaven. God places a high value on being kind – it pleases Him. He notices when His children are kind, and He doesn't forget it. **Proverbs 19:17.** In Matthew 25:34-40, Jesus told His followers the impacts of their kindness will echo into eternity.

Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven by being kind to one another. Kindness is blessing others with generosity, your words, and your actions, whether or not they deserve it, and it is something you can start focusing on even today. Stand out from the culture – look different as a follower of Jesus because you never know the impact you can make.

Every person you meet is fighting some kind of great battle. Rarely do we know the full extent of what is going on in the lives of those around us. He wants you to be kind to people He puts in your life. When you are kind, it's not to make yourself look better. It is to imitate the one we say we follow- the one who is kind to us.
Where will you show kindness today?

You can make an impact in someone's life by being kind. Even the smallest acts of kindness have the power to make a big difference. Be kind to one another.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What are some contributors to society becoming less kind?**
- **Do you view kindness as a weakness? Explain**
- **What situations do you find it challenging to be kind?**
- **Describe a time when someone was undeservedly kind to you.**