

# *The Law of Kindness*

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Straight Paths Bible Church

Ephesians 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Rom 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Prov 31:26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

1 Pet 3:8-11 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

Luke 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

- I. Kindness is a rare attribute to be found, even in the churches today.
  - A. Kindness is the oil that makes things run smoothly.
  - B. Kindness was the Christian trait that got your attention before you were saved.
  - C. Kindness was the Christian trait that broke down your resistance to the Gospel.
    - 1. The goodness of God leads to repentance.
    - 2. The goodness of some particular Christian made a permanent impression on you.
  - D. Kindness is the trait that has marked our nation since its founding by Christian people.
    - 1. Whatever the critics and haters of our country try to say, ours has been the most benevolent nation ever to be on the earth.
    - 2. Christian influence is the reason for that, it most certainly is not the influence of humanists and atheists.
    - 3. Kindness is the Christian trait or quality that has caused it to be benevolent.
  - E. Kindness is the universal language that speaks beyond all obstacles and boundaries of languages, races, and kinds of people.

## II. Why is a person not kind to others?

- A. Because they do not love them.

1 Cor 13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

- B. Because they are selfish.
  - 1. Anything that displaces kindness is rooted in selfishness.
- C. Because he has no compassion on them. (this is selfishness, also)

- D. Because he doesn't think they deserve kindness. (this is unwillingness to forgive)
- E. Because he thinks it would lower him to be kind to them. (pride)

III. Kindness is the most powerful weapon we have against evil.

Rom 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

- A. Answering in kind doesn't work like everyone seems to think it works. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Is that Christianity? NO!

Prov 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

1 Pet 3:9-11 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

- B. An enemy cannot withstand true kindness.
  - 1. He cannot remain angry with you.
  - 2. He cannot maintain his desire to hurt you.
- C. A normal unregenerate human being will desire to return evil for evil and good for good.
- D. An abnormal person will do otherwise.
  - 1. When a person returns evil for good we think, "What a cruel, mean person!"
  - 2. When a person returns good for evil we think, "What a kind person! There must be something different about them."
- E. Kindness leaves a mark on a person that will never be forgotten.

IV. It is simply our Christian duty to be kind.

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

- A. Especially among the brethren.

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

- B. Also to those without the church who are not our brethren.
  - 1. At the store, the filling station, the restaurant, the stop light, etc.

V. If we fail to have this vital virtue of a Christian we forfeit the promises of God.

- A. It makes our testimony for Christ of none effect.
  - 1. Our unkindness blasphemes God.
- B. Our children won't believe in our Christianity.
- C. Neither will anyone else.
- D. We will be miserable people.
- E. We will make everyone else around us miserable, too.

Colossians 3:12-13 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.