

Kind Love - Part 4

Graciously Desiring and Doing Good to Others

1 Corinthians 13:4; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 3-7-2021

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 13:4-8a

Introduction

We are focusing on love because that's what God calls us to no matter how crazy and hostile things get in our country. Today, we want to continue focusing on the love that God calls us to and on kindness or kind love, in particular.

- Kindness is exalted in the Scriptures. – Proverbs 19:22; Micah 6:8
- To be kind in 1 Corinthians 13 is not to *'be nice' and avoid conflict*. – Psalm 141:5; Matthew 23:27-33; 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- To be kind in 1 Corinthians 13 is to *graciously desire and do good* to others. As that 'good' is defined by God! – Luke 6:35; Psalm 145:17

God calls us to trust and love. The love God commands is a love that is patient and kind. Profoundly, we must understand God's justice if we are to be kind.

1. We are to be kind *because God is kind* and we are to be kind *like God is kind*.

It is hard (*hear: impossible apart from grace*) to show God's kindness to those who are not kind to us and others. - Romans 2:1-6

Think of the Pharisee and the tax-collector – Luke 18:9-11

Think proud like Pharaoh who hardened his heart – Exodus 8:32

– see also Psalm 107:1, 8; Jonah 3:10-4:2; Ezekiel 33:11

Another really hard thing (*hear: impossible to do apart from God's grace*) 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

Think of the Nine Lepers: – Luke 17:12-19

Think of the unforgiving servant – Matthew 18:30-33

God does good to those who are evil – Matthew 5:43-48

God loves all in some ways and some in all ways. And we are called to love all as well! -
1 Thessalonians 3:12; Genesis 4:1-16

2. God is so patient and kind that we are shocked when He rightfully exercises His justice.

There is an illustration of this in 2 Samuel 6:1-11 (see also 1 Chronicles 13:9-14; 1 Chronicles 15:25; 1 Chronicles 16:7, 34, 41)

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!

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! And we are to reflect this amazing, gracious kindness to all others in our lives (even those who don't appreciate it and may even demand it)! – Exodus 17:1-7

3. But it is the faithful exercise of God's justice that frees us to be patient and kind.

Focus on the promise of God and trust Him to bring justice! – Romans 12:14-21

4. And it is the gracious exercise of God's justice on the cross of Jesus that frees us from the fear of His patience and kindness ending.

Those who receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior receive God's just punishment of their sin in the cross of Jesus and need not fear the justice of God at all and can rejoice in the kindness of God being shown to them forever and ever! – Romans 3:19-26

Conclusion

We need to be kind like God is kind for the glory of God and the good of others. But we have to have the foundation of the gospel in our lives to do this. As we bow in prayer, let's consider some questions:

- Do you see God as always good and patient and kind to you?
- Do you believe the good news that Jesus lived the life you could never live, died the death you deserve to die and then rose from the dead?
- Are you resting in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
- Are you hoping in God for all you need and desire?
- Are you pursuing love by obeying God's Word?
- Are you consciously and prayerfully seeking to be kind – to do good – to all those who are in your life?
- Are you trusting God to fulfill the demands of justice while you show gracious kindness to those who sin against you?