



We have been talking about “practicing” our faith - *not mere believing, but living out the Gospel in our daily lives.* (Starting with our immediate family and then extending to all those around us.) Living life with grace and love is impossible by our own strength but the Lord has promised to empower us by His Spirit if we will step out in faith. I call this **“Daily Impossibility Living”**.

Part of “Impossibility Living” is to practice kindness to those around us. Let us look at God’s call to us to be kind...*like Jesus!*

Biblical Kindness

Jesus is the perfect example of Biblical kindness. He lived His life selflessly, always demonstrating care and concern for all people... even those who didn’t “deserve” it! He mourned with those who were in sorrow, cared for and healed the sick, called those who were living without God to repentance, forgave His enemies **and His friends!** *His death on the cross to take away our sins was the ultimate kindness!*

JESUS DEMONSTRATES KINDNESS TO THE:

- ◆ **unsaved and the unsanctified**
- ◆ **saved who fail to walk worthy of Him**
- ◆ **physically handicapped, those with sickness and disease** (lepers)
- ◆ **sexually & spiritually unclean:** (adulterous woman, Mary who had seven demons)
- ◆ **hurting, suffering, the damaged and the poor**
- ◆ **ungrateful and uncaring people**
- ◆ **evil & the wicked**
- ◆ **arrogant & ignorant people**

Jesus was and is kind to everyone!

LET KINDNESS BE OUR FIRST CONCERN

Kindness is not simply having kind words, being polite, courteous and it’s not just a lack of unkindness (*most of us aren’t unkind*). It stems from God’s love, causing us to care for the people around us. It is not a mere feeling but an action and attitude we choose to practice.

GOD'S WORD CALLS US TO PUT KINDNESS AT THE VERY TOP OF OUR LIST!

*The Lord has told you what is good; and what He requires of you!
He requires that you do justice, let kindness be your first concern
and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

Being consistently kind is a challenge for all of us

BECAUSE:

- **It isn't a natural action of flesh but of the Spirit.** *Galatians 5:16,17 talks of this war between our natural desires and the Holy Spirit at work in us.*
- **We're called to be kind to all, not just the easiest!** *It's easiest to be kind toward those who are easily loved, liked and are themselves kind!*
- **Requires us to die to our selves so that we are "they focused" not "me focused"**
- **It requires power we must obtain from God:** *We must acknowledge that we are called to walk in kindness, Commit ourselves to obey God's Word, step out in faith and then we will walk in grace (power of God).*

WE CAN PRACTICE KINDNESS BY

1. **Aiming high, making it our personal responsibility to carry out God's precepts**
2. **Focus on others by listening empathetically**
3. **Responding and reacting in patient love and kindness (guard against first responses!)**
4. **Pray for god's help that his character would be developed in us**

Father God, help us to walk in Your kindness even when we busy or "too tired". Give us grace to be kind to everyone, all of the time. Let our lives reflect You and Your powerful love that we may be a light in dark and dying world. Amen

Pastor Michael & Mary

Please call to set up a home visit for communion or prayer.

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Chuckles *A merry heart does good, like medicine* (Proverbs 17:22)



A man worked in a post office. His job was to process all mail that had illegible addresses. One day a letter came to his desk, addressed in shaky handwriting to God. He thought, "I better open this one and see what it's all about." So, he opened it and read: "Dear God, I am a 83 year old widow living on a very small pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had a hundred dollars in it which was all the money I had until my next pension check." "Next Sunday is Mother's Day, and I had invited my last two friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with." "I have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope. Can you please help me?"

The postal worker was touched, and went around showing the letter to all the others. Each of them dug into their pockets and came up with a few dollars. By the time he made the rounds, he had collected 96 dollars, which they put into an envelope and sent over to her. The rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of the nice thing they had done.

Mother's Day came and went, and a few days later came another letter from the old lady to God. All the workers gathered around while the letter was opened. It read, "Dear God, how can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me?" "Because of Your generosity, I was able to fix a lovely dinner for my friends. We had a very nice day, and I told my friends of Your wonderful gift." **"By the way, there was 4 dollars missing.** It was no doubt those thieves at the post office!!!!!!