

Love is Kind

1 Corinthians 13 Series, Part 3

Pastor George Stahnke, 06/22/2003

Review from last week, love is patiently expressed in...

Forgiving—Matthew 18:26, 29, 70x7 from the heart.

Prayer—Luke 18:7, The unjust judge and justice.

People—1 Thessalonians 5:14, Be patient with everyone.

Promises—Hebrews 6:15, The example of Abraham.

Suffering—James 5:7-8, Until the return of the Lord.

God—2 Peter 3:9, Extending salvation to the lost.

Agape love is about how we respond to others when they are imposing, rude, offensive, or have maliciously wronged us. We must respond in the opposite spirit, love. If we are focused on ourselves then we will respond in a carnal/worldly way. Instead of being patient we will be harsh, angry and retaliatory.

Love is kind.

1 Corinthians 13:4a (NASB) Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,

Kind: G5541 χρηστεύομαι *chrēsteuomai* [*khra-ste-yoo'-om-ahēe*] Used only once in the New Testament. **Thayer Definition:** 1) to show one's self mild, to be kind, use kindness. **Strong's Definition:** Middle voice from G5543; to *show oneself useful*, that is, *act benevolently*:—be kind.

"It is tender and compassionate in itself, and kind and obliging to others; it is mild, gentle, and benign; and, if called to suffer, inspires the sufferer with the most amiable sweetness, and the most tender affection. It is also submissive to all the dispensations of God; and creates trouble to no one."

—Adam Clark's Commentary on the New Testament

Love responds in the opposite spirit, kindness.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 (NASB) See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 (NIV) Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

Romans 12:17-21 (NIV) Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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“...the offended one never has the right to repay wrong with wrong... One’s response should be to show kindness in such instances. Nor is it enough to abstain from evil; one is also to do positive good—to be kind to each other. Christians are to do this not in the sense that they will if they can, but in the sense that they earnestly work at it. This kind of response takes effort and must be continued.”

—The Bible Knowledge Commentary on the New Testament

It’s not about your rights.

Matthew 5:38-48 (NIV) “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’³⁹ But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.⁴⁰ And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.⁴¹ If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’⁴⁴ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Joseph and Mary: Matthew 1:18 (NIV) This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

Jesus, his mother Mary and John: John 19:25 (NIV) Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,”²⁷ and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Kindness brings blessing to us and others

Proverbs 11:17 (NLT) Your own soul is nourished when you are kind, but you destroy yourself when you are cruel.

Proverbs 12:25 (NIV) An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.

Proverbs 19:17 (NIV) He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.

“Kindness has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence, or learning.”

—Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)

“The lowest and worst have a claim to our courtesy.”

—John Wesley, Christian History, no. 2.

Colossians 3:12 (NIV) Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

“When we are born again, the Holy Spirit begins to work His new creation in us, and there will come a time when there is nothing remaining of the old life. Our old gloomy outlook disappears, as does our old attitude toward things, and “all things are of God”. How are we going to get a life that has no lust, no self-interest, and is not sensitive to the ridicule of others? How will we have the type of love that “is kind is not provoked, [and] thinks no evil”? (1 Corinthians 13:4–5). The only way is by

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allowing nothing of the old life to remain, and by having only simple, perfect trust in God—such a trust that we no longer want God's blessings, but only want God Himself. Have we come to the point where God can withdraw His blessings from us without our trust in Him being affected? Once we truly see God at work, we will never be concerned again about the things that happen, because we are actually trusting in our Father in heaven, whom the world cannot see."

—My Utmost for His Highest, Oct. 23

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

—Author Unknown

Remember, Love Is Kind