



Love God, Love People

**God's Special Kind Of Kindness**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4a**

## God's Special Kind Of Kindness

- Joseph sold into slavery in Egypt to Potiphar
  - **Genesis 39:2-3 NIV**, “2 The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

## God's Special Kind Of Kindness

- Joseph sold into slavery in Egypt to Potiphar
  - The Talmud teaches what Potiphar was really saying in the Hebrew is, “the name of God was always on Joseph’s lips”
  - Joseph was in a constant state of prayer
  - Every act he performed was performed in the name of God, for the glory of God, for the revealing of God
  - Joseph desired all around him to be able to see and find this awesome God he served

## God's Special Kind Of Kindness

- Joseph sold into slavery in Egypt to Potiphar
  - Despite being a slave, Joseph operated with a strong moral compass, treating his master's trust with respect by managing his household with care
  - We could say Potiphar saw God through Joseph's kindness
  - Joseph's kindness was most evident in his interactions with his brothers who sold him not slavery

## God's Special Kind Of Kindness

- Joseph sold into slavery in Egypt to Potiphar
  - **Genesis 50:19-21 NIV**, 19 But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.
    - Literally - meaning "and he spoke to their heart"
    - How could Joseph do this?
    - “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good”

## God's Special Kind Of Kindness

- The miracle in Joseph's life scared his brothers
  - Joseph's authority scared his brothers
  - It was Joseph's kindness that allowed them to face their sinful past
  - It was Joseph's kindness that allowed them to seek the forgiveness from Joseph
- This is the same way it works today
  - If you want those around you to see your God, it runs through your kindness

## Scripture

- **1st Corinthians 13:4a NIV**, “(God’s kind of) Love is patient, love is kind.”
  - **AMP**, “Love endures with patience and serenity, love is kind and thoughtful”
  - **NKJV**, “Love suffers long and is kind”
- **Psalm 103:8 AMP**, The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in compassion and lovingkindness.

## Scripture

- **Titus 3:4-8 ESV**, 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might (*now have*) become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## God's loving kindness is our heavenly Father's hallmark

- Hallmark - a mark stamped on articles of gold, silver, or platinum in Britain, certifying their standard of purity
- God is kind even when we don't deserve it
  - His kindness isn't a reward for good behavior
  - It is the cause for our repentance
    - **Romans 2:4 NIV**, Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance (*patient self-control; restraint and tolerance*) and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

## God's loving kindness is our heavenly Father's hallmark

- God's kindness isn't passive tolerance but is an active pursuit
  - **Matthew 18:12 NIV**, 12 What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?
- God is always there to listen, care and accept us in our brokenness
  - This divine kindness creates a space where we're not just tolerated but cherished, not barely accepted but deeply loved

## God's loving kindness is our heavenly Father's hallmark

- God's kindness isn't passive tolerance but is an active pursuit
  - Divine mercy isn't cheap
  - The kindness we enjoy today was paved by the suffering on the cross by God's Son, Jesus
  - **Romans 5:6-8 NIV**, 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## God's loving kindness toward us becomes both our motivation and our model

- God's kind of kindness is a proactive, undeserved, and sacrificial love (*hesed*)
  - It provides for, protects, and its purpose is to redeem, even while we are turning away
  - It goes beyond mere politeness, aiming to lead hearts to repentance through tender, compassionate action
- This unwavering, merciful, and, at times, firm love serves as the ultimate model for human kindness

## God's loving kindness toward us becomes both our motivation and our model

- **Ephesians 4:32 ESV**, 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
  - Notice the pattern: God's divine kindness toward us precedes our kindness toward others
  - **Ephesians 5:1 NIV**, Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
- **Leviticus 19:18 NIV**, 18 "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."

## God's loving kindness toward us becomes both our motivation and our model

- **Luke 10:30-32 NIV**, 30 In reply Jesus said: “A man (*context suggests the victim was Jewish*) was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

## God's loving kindness toward us becomes both our motivation and our model

- **Luke 10:33 NIV**, 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.
- **Luke 10:36-37 NIV**, 36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” 37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”
  - Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

## God's loving kindness toward us becomes both our motivation and our model

- We don't create this kind of kindness by self determined will-power
  - **Galatians 5:22-23 NIV**, 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
- We are to reflect the kindness we've received from Christ
  - The more deeply you grasp the Lord's undeserved kindness toward you, the more naturally kindness will flow from you to others

## There is power in God's kind of love and kindness

- God's love is kind
  - Not occasionally
  - Not selectively
  - Not when it is convenient
- Kindness is love's constant posture
  - Posture - a particular way of dealing with or considering something; an approach or attitude

## **There is power in God's kind of love and kindness**

- Kindness is love's constant posture
  - Honoring others
  - Creating safety
  - Offering respect without prerequisites
  - Accepting without agendas

## There is power in God's kind of love and kindness

- This is radically different than the world built on
  - Earned
  - Proven
  - Performance
- Kindness says, "You're valuable simply because you exist"
  - "You matter simply because God made you"
  - 'You are safe here'"

## There is power in God's kind of love and kindness

- Let our eyes speak kindness before our mouth or hands attempts to
  - Create an atmosphere where people drop their defenses and discover acceptance
  - Pursue others with the same generous kindness the Spirit showed you
  - Love is kind, leading to repentance and healing
  - **Micah 6:8 ESV**, 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

## God's Special Kind Of Kindness

- Mark Twain, “Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”
- God' kind of kindness is not a random act here or there but it's a radical life flowing from a changed heart filled with the Holy Spirit
- Kindness is the will to do good that springs from the pain of staring at our own misery while at the same time looking up to Christ's kindness to us on the cross
- God ruins my desire to hate – Victor Cruz



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