

Christian Character – Kindness Lk. 6:27-36

Introduction:

Col 3:12 - Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

“Kindness”

5544 chrestotes (khray-stot'-ace);

from 5543; usefulness, i.e. moral excellence (in character or demeanor):

KJV-- gentleness, good (-ness), kindness.

We all desire to have this kind of kindness in our lives.

1. **Pr. 19:22** - What is desired in a man is kindness, and a poor man is better than a liar.
2. **I Cor. 13:4** - Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up.
3. **Eph. 4:32** - And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

We know we are told to be kind, but to whom should we be kind and why should we be kind to others?

I. We should be kind to our neighbors (6:31-34).

- A. Even though this is not directly mentioned in our text, it is implied by Jesus.
 1. Jesus does say that we are to treat others the way that we want to be treated (**6:31**).
 2. While Jesus is talking about how to treat our enemies, an implied idea is that we treat our friends well.
 3. After all, “**even sinners love those who love them**” (**6:32**).
- B. This is not the only time that Jesus commands us to treat our friends well.
 1. Remember the greatest command of Christ.
 - a. **Mt. 22:34-40** - But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. {35} Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, {36} “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” {37} Jesus said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**” {38} This is the first and great commandment. {39} And the second is like it: **‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’** {40} On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
 - b. The command of Christ is to love our neighbors (friends).
 2. On another occasion, Jesus is asked about eternal life.
 - a. **Lk. 10:25-29** - And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” {26} He said to him, “**What is written in the law? What is your**

reading of it?" {27} So he answered and said, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" {28} And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." {29} But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

- b. Jesus goes on from here and gives the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:30-37).
 - c. The point is that we should be kind to our neighbors (friends).
- C. God has always wanted His people to show kindness to their own brethren.
1. We have already noticed two instances in the New Testament that referred to loving our neighbor as yourself.
 - a. Both of these are a quote from Lev. 19:18.
 - b. Lev. 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.
 2. God wanted His people to be kind to one another.
- D. God wants us, as His church, to show kindness, especially to those of our family.
1. Gal. 6:9-10 - And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. {10} Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
 2. Rom. 12:10 - Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.

II. We should be kind to our enemies (6:27-30, 35).

- A. The main idea of our text is the command that Jesus gives us to be kind, to our enemies.
1. It is easy for us to be kind to our friends, but it can be difficult to be kind to our enemies.
 2. Notice that Jesus tells us to "do good to those who hate you" (6:27, 35).
 - a. We are to be kind to our enemies.
 - b. Pr. 25:21-22 - If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; {22} For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you.
 - c. This passage is quoted by Paul in Rom. 12:20.
- B. To help us understand about being kind to our enemies, notice some Bible examples.
1. Israel
 - a. From the very beginning of the nation of Israel, God wanted them to be kind to everyone, especially their enemies (within Israel).
 - b. Ex. 23:4-5 - If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. {5} If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.

2. David
 - a. Saul, king of Israel, was trying to capture David and kill him.
 - b. During this time, David had two opportunities to kill Saul (I Sam. 24 and 26).
 - c. However, both times David refused to do so.
 - d. I Sam. 24:6-7 - And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD." {7} So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul.
 - e. I Sam. 26:11 (David speaking) - The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed.
2. Jesus
 - a. Many people hated Jesus because of the things that He taught.
 - b. They tried to trap Him in His words and make Him look like the bad guy to the people.
 - c. However, in all things, Jesus was kind to those who hated Him the most.
 - 1) When Jesus was betrayed and they came out against Him as if He were a thief, He was still kind and healed the servant of the high priest when his ear was cut off (Lk. 22:51).
 - 2) Lk. 23:34 - Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
 - 3) He demonstrated great kindness in that He died, not only for us, but for His enemies.
- C. We must be kind to our enemies.

III. We can be kind to all because of the kindness that God has for us (6:35b).

- A. We can be kind to our friends and our enemies because of the kindness of God towards us.
- B. Notice a few passages on the kindness (goodness of God).
 1. God was always kind to Israel.
 - a. Neh. 9:17 - They refused to obey, and they were not mindful of Your wonders that You did among them. But they hardened their necks, and in their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage. But You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness, and did not forsake them.
 - b. Is. 54:8, 10 - With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer. {10} For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has mercy on you.
 2. God is kind to us today.

- a. **Rom. 11:22** - Therefore consider the **goodness** and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, **goodness**, if you continue in His **goodness**. Otherwise you also will be cut off.
- b. **Titus 3:4-7** - But when the **kindness** and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, {5} not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, {6} whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, {7} that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Conclusion:

Even on the Day of Judgment, we will be seen for how we treated others (**Mt. 25:31-46**).

We must put on kindness!