

Love is Kind
I Corinthians 13:4

Introduction:

- I. We talked two weeks ago about the patience of love. We continue our series on love with a study of the second thing that Paul uses to characterize love: kindness.
 - a. Kindness in English probably derives from the same origin as “kin,” “kindred:” the German word *kind, kinder*, meaning “child.”
 - i. Police officers must be careful in breaking up a family fight. It has repeatedly been the case that the officer’s presence causes the family to fight together *against* the policemen.
 1. Families have a tendency to show one another an unwritten loyalty.
 - a. However, we often forget that through Adam (and more importantly, through Christ), all humans are family.
 - b. Our lesson tonight will focus on what it means to be kind to one another, so that our love can be the true love that God commanded us to have.
- II. The Greek word for “kind” in I Corinthians 13:4 was used in several different ways. We will discuss four of those tonight.

Discussion:

- I. Kindness causes no discomfort.
 - a. We might say that kindness makes life *easier for others*.
 - i. Matthew 11:30 – My yoke is *easy* and my burden is light.
 - ii. This word is a different form of what is used in I Corinthians 13.
 - b. Matthew 5:38-42 – Kindness causes us to bypass the urge to give retribution for evil treatment by doing what is good.
 - i. Romans 12:17-21 – Thus we conquer evil with good.
 1. We bring volatile situations down to a more comfortable level by being kind.
 - c. Romans 15:1 – Kindness requires us to live in such a way as to build up one another.
 - i. Hebrews 10:24-25 – Provoke unto love and good works.
- II. Kindness meets a high standard and is of high value.
 - a. It was often used to distinguish good from better!
 - i. Luke 5:39 – The old wine is of greater value and is better.
 - ii. “The chicken was *kind* tonight, honey?”
 - iii. Variant reading of Luke 9:48 – “More kind.”
 - b. Proverbs 31 lists kindness with strength, dignity, and wisdom.
 - i. These are things that make a virtuous woman’s price far above rubies.
- III. Kindness is morally good.
 - a. It was often used to describe good reputation and morality.
 - i. I Corinthians 15:33 – “Kind” morals.
 - b. I Peter 5-7 – Kindness is sixth on a list of seven virtues that we must add to our faith in order that we may never stumble (following verses).
- IV. Kindness is benevolent.
 - a. This is perhaps the best-known use of the word.
 - i. Ephesians 4:32
 - ii. I Peter 2:3
 - iii. Luke 6:35
 - b. The benevolence of kindness is done *before* being asked.
 - i. Matthew 25:35-36 – They were not told beforehand to meet the needs discussed in these verses. They were supposed to *look* for ways to help.
 - c. The benevolence of kindness is done even when unexpected.
 - i. Acts 28:2 – The people of Melita (Malta).