

Kindness

The Attitudes of Christmas Series, Pt 1

This week we will kick off a new series called the “**Attitudes of Christmas**” where we’ll look at an attitude displayed by a character in the Christmas story and apply it to our lives.

We’re called to be kind, LOVE is KIND. We can’t love one another if we’re not kind to one another. It doesn’t work.

Kindness - Benevolence or good will; delighting in contributing to the happiness of others which is exercised cheerfully in gratifying their wishes and supplying their wants or alleviating their distresses

I. Character that displayed kindness

A. 18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. **Matthew 1:18-19 (NIV)**

1. Set the scene, imagine being Joseph and hearing the story of how Mary became pregnant.
 - a. She cheated on me.
 - b. She lied about it.
 - c. It wasn’t even a good lie.
2. He must have been heartbroken/furious.
3. Verse 19 says Joseph was faithful to the law.
 - a. 23 If a man happens to meet in a town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her, 24 you shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death... **Deuteronomy 22:23-24 (NIV)**
 - b. Joseph had the right to expose Mary and have her stoned to death.
 - c. He could have reacted out of emotion and blew up.

- d. This was a man who was faithful to God.
- e. **Joseph's kindness stemmed from his devotion to God**

II. Jesus was kind.

- A. Jesus showed kindness all through his ministry.
- B. In John 8 The story of the woman caught in the act of adultery is similar to the situation with Mary and Joseph.
- C. Jesus showed the same kindness to the woman.

III. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit.

- A. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruits of the Spirit
- B. The fruits of the Spirit are attributes that the Holy Spirit produces in the lives of believers in Christ
- C. Back to the definition **Kindness - Benevolence or good will; delighting in contributing to the happiness of others which is exercised cheerfully in gratifying their wishes and supplying their wants or alleviating their distresses.**

1. Benevolence or good will

- a. Will to do good in how we speak to or speak about others.
 - 29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **Ephesians 4:29-30 (NIV)**
 - Only building up others and benefiting the listener.
- b. Will to do good in how we act toward others.
 - Actions speak louder than words.
 - Pushing past how we may want to act towards others.

2. Delighting in contributing to the happiness of others

- a. Taking joy in making others happy.

3. Which is exercised cheerfully in gratifying their wishes and supplying their wants.

- a. Fulfilling the needs of others.
- b. But using wisdom (drug addict example, enable laziness example).

4. Alleviating their distresses

- a. Distress-anxiety, sorrow or pain).
- b. Meaning to reduce someone's anxiety sorrow or pain.
- c. To alleviate we can't be contributing to it.

IV. Why some of us don't show kindness?

- A. We seldom experience it shown to us.
- B. We've been hurt/It's been abuse.
- C. Lack of relationship with the Lord (fruit not being produced).

Closing:

4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? **Romans 2:4 (NIV)**

Because of God's kindness we are able to repent and turn away from our sins because He doesn't hold them against us. And the kindness of God flowing out of us can lead others to repentance and surrender to Him.