

# Love Is Kind

*The greatest thing a man can do for his heavenly Father is to be kind to some of his other children.*

—Henry Drummond





# "Bless Your Heart"

- A common phrase in the Southern United States with multiple meanings.
- A sincere expression of sympathy or genuine concern.
- A precursor to soften the blow of an insult.
  - “ You are dumb as a rock, but you can't help it, Bless Your Heart.
  - A way to "be kind and sweet" and not "act ugly."



## More Than “Bless Your Heart”

In the 1 century, kindness not only mellowed anything that was harsh, it actively treated others with fairness and justice.



## More Than “Bless Your Heart”

Thus, kindness was closely connected to actively pursuing goodness, generosity, gentleness, and usefulness.



# The Kindness of God in the Old Testament

- Pervades every aspect of his character and not compromising any of the other aspects of his nature.
- God can call his people to accountability, rebuke them for their sinfulness and at still exude kindness.
- This can be seen in the book of the Psalms, and the Prophets.
- Hosea, in particular demonstrates God's kindness can coexist with his justice and discipline.



“When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son. But  
the more they were called, the more  
they went away from me. They  
sacrificed to the Baals and they burned  
incense to images.

Hosea 11:1-4

NIV

It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with CORDS OF HUMAN KINDNESS, WITH TIES OF LOVE.

Hosea 11:1-4

NIV

# The Kindness of God in the New Testament



“Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

## Jesus Left No Loopholes

Luke 6:35-36

NLT

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-7

NIV

Don't you see how wonderfully kind,  
tolerant, and patient God is with you?  
Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you  
see that his kindness is intended to turn  
you from your sin?

Romans 2:4

NLT

# The Kindness of God is Transformational

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

Titus 3:3-8

NIV

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Titus 3:3-8

NIV

So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

1 Peter 2:1-3

NLT

If Patience is Loving Endurance of Others, Even the Undeserving.  
Kindness is Loving, Compassionate, and Generous Actions Toward Others, Even the Undeserving.



# Let's Pray This Prayer

Dear Father, I rely on your loving kindness every moment of every day. I admit it is wrong for me to drink freely of your kind love for me and then fail to actively show kindness to those around me, even unkind people. I pray to be filled with your Holy Spirit so I will have the ability to be kind in how I show love.

*"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."* Psalm 19:14

