



#5 "Loving Kindness"

The Problem with Kindness:

"People Often Misinterpret Kindness As Tolerance And Tolerance Is Viewed As Consent"

- We Often Confuse Kindness With NICENESS

"Niceness is About You, While Kindness Is Acting In The Best Interest Of Others With Empathy And Compassion."

- Nice Isn't Always KIND And Kindness Isn't Always NICE

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**,.....Galatians 5:22

Kindness = Greek = **Χρηστότης** = Fit for Use / Useful
 Kindness = Old English = Cynde = Kin/Class/Family = Humankind / Mankind

"Kindness Points To A Character Quality That Not Only Is Useful Or Essential, But It Reflects The Central Attribute Of What It Means To Be Truly Human."

Jesus Models Human Kindness

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. ³The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. [vs 8:1-6]

"bent/stooped" = Greek = **κύπτω** = "To Lower Yourself"

⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." [va8:7]

"straightened" = Greek = **ἀνακύπτω** = "To Stand Up"

"Before The Sinful, Adulterous Woman, Jesus Lowered Himself, But Before The Unkind, Cruel & Hypocritical Men Jesus Stands Up"

Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." [vs 8-11]

- Human Kindness BENDS Down

The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve Mark 10:45

- Human Kindness STANDS Up

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

*"If You're Only About Truth - You Will Be Condemning.
If You're Only About Grace - You Will Be Condoning"*

The Difficulty

- We Have A Hard Time Separating The PERSON From The Sin.

*"In The Midst Of This Woman's Sin & Brokenness, Jesus Chose To Show Extraordinary Kindness - And It Started When He Separated
The Person From The Sin."*

Life Group Questions

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- What would you say is the main difference between being nice versus being kind?
- What type of situation or relationship makes you hesitant to be kind?
- Think of a time when your kindness was misinterpreted as consent. How did you respond? How do you wish you had responded?

Read John 8:1-11

- Jesus "bent down" (demonstrating grace), then "straightened up" (communicating truth). Which is easier for you? Which is harder?
- We often have a hard time separating people from what they've done. Do you have a relationship that could benefit from you separating the person from what they've done? What is a tangible way you could do that?
- How is one way that you can begin to express human kindness to someone in your life this week?

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