

Then a shoot will spring  
from the stem of Jesse, And  
a branch from his roots will  
bear fruit. **Isaiah 11:1**

## Store In My Heart Joel 2:12-13

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

The prophecy of Joel, like most others, was a call for Israel to return to God. Joel speaks of the 'day of the Lord' as a time of judgement upon the nation. His warning was to urge them to repent for that day was coming. Destruction awaited any who would not return to God. Peter quoted from Joel in Acts 2, telling those Jews that the 'day of the Lord' was happening to them. Many of them believed and obeyed the message of salvation in Christ. They recognized the judgement of God. We should heed this warning also as our 'day of the Lord' will certainly come.

# Show A Little Kindness

James R. Dunigan

Today I hope that when my eulogy is given the preacher can find a few good things to say about me. I try my best to live my life in a way that in spite of my outward appearance, that of a grizzled old man, people will still be able to say I had been kind to them. That no matter how they treated me or acted in life towards me I showed them loving kindness. Sometimes I have failed to show a proper kindness to people but I truly try to have an attitude and outlook that includes being kind to others. As I reflect on kindness this passage that contains the words of Jesus Christ comes to mind.

**Luke 6:32-36 (NKJV)** *"But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."*

Have you ever paid close attention to this passage? I think people overlook an aspect of it in their hurry to get to the next verse which says "judge not..." If you look closely you will learn an important aspect about God! *"He is KIND to the unthankful and the evil!"* Look around you and see if this is not so! People who hate and revile God receive kind treatment from Him! I know they will not accept this but when a person cries to the heavens "If there is truly a God let Him strike me dead..." and God does not there, is kindness in that! The salvation God offers mankind through His Son Jesus Christ is called *"the kindness of God"* in **Titus 3:4**. God's longsuffering towards mankind is kindness! (**2Peter 3:9**). As a side note longsuffering and kindness are always linked together as part of the Christian graces! (**Galatians 5:21-23; Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 3:11-13; 2Timothy 3:9-11**)

Kindness is more than words it is an action. It is something we can practice, improve and grow in. Kindness throughout the New Testament is one of the characteristics of His saints (Christians)! Now I know, oh how I know, that some people we truly have to PRACTICE a lot of longsuffering with to be kind to! They try our patience to the very end of our limits and for us to be like God we have to extend those limits! When a person knowingly lives a wicked life and sets his feet on the path of unrighteousness Christians can be severely tested and challenged to show that person one ounce of kindness. But **Colossians 3:12** states *"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;"* Well there is that passage again... while we do not have to put ourselves in physical harm or financial ruin to show kindness we must find a way to



be kindly minded toward those who even do evil against us. Especially our brethren who Paul tells us *“be kind to one another!”*

Being kind is not a character flaw nor does it make me weak. The word translated kindness in the New Testament means usefulness, having moral excellence in character or demeanor, gentleness. Paul used the word in Ephesians 4:32 and it describe being usefully employed in that which is good and gracious. God’s kindness towards us is good for us, useful, that which is good and useful for the saving of our very souls. His rich grace towards mankind is not just mere words it is demonstrated. How? **Ephesians 2:7** *“that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”*

We learn through God’s word that kindness is an essential quality of God. When we practice and demonstrate true kindness we become more like Him. In fact God loved us while we were still sinners. Separated from Him and without hope He demonstrated His love towards us (**John 3:16**)! How can I demonstrate such kindness? Jesus tells us... **Luke 6:35** *“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return...”* How do you respond to your enemies?

Kindness in the Bible is never linked or associated with weakness of any kind. In fact in **2Corinthians 6:6**, **Ephesians 4:32**; **Colossians 3:12** it is associated with purity, knowledge, genuine agape love, tenderheartedness, forgiveness, compassion, humility and meekness... all characteristics of godliness! And all take strength of character to develop! These are all the qualities God examples to us in His dealings with us! To be more like Him we should begin by copying His kindness. This would mean putting others before ourselves and being servants to one another (**Philippians 2:3**).

When we develop kindness we will find that it has a practical daily application to our lives!. Paul wrote that Christians should *“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.”* **Romans 12:10**. Kindness is an OUTWARD proof of love because *“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”* **1Corinthians 13:4-7**. King Solomon tells us in **Proverbs 25:11** *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver”*

Every person who proclaims the name of Christ or in other words are Christians needs to cultivate the quality of kindness. Don’t just sit there and hope for it to happen! Get out and practice it. Develop it in ourselves and others! It is hard at times to be kind and well it will truly take a very determined effort to show kindness to some people! Because let’s be honest here... some people are just not very loveable. But the burden lied on US to be kind! **Romans 5:8** *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* God demonstrated that kindness already! Show a little kindness, God has!

(In a world full of strife, bitterness and division, an individual who shows kindness will stand out as above the fray. This could be our way to show others how Christ makes a difference in our life. Be Kind! DLH)

## Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

### Church of Christ

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## For Our Information

**John LaValla** is still dealing with respiratory issues.

**Sue Soliday** is still doing physical therapy regularly.

**Brenda Keisler** is having some hip trouble bothering her.

**Malcolm Rigsby** was not feeling well earlier last week.

**Dan & JoBeth Henderson** have both been dealing with sinus issues this past week.

Several of our families have those who are dealing with ongoing health issues. Let us keep one another in our prayers.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 11:11** Wednesday – **Acts 1, 1John 1**

The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study