

LOVE IS KIND

1 Cor 13:4

Agape love is not an emotion, but originated in mind of God; intellectual at its base, it can be commanded (Mat. 22:36-37) = obligation. Seeks best for all men, expecting nothing in return.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Kind is kin to kin, at least in English (Greek word means "useful" - James 2.14-16).

1. Natural attitude of generosity toward family.

"We'll treat you like family" May not be the best ad

2. Unnatural to be less than kind toward your own.

B. Kindness translated in Vulgate by "bonitas" from which we get our word benign (harmless).

1. Plummer - puts others at ease; shrinks from causing pain

2. Epictetus - a man has lost the essence of manhood, the distinguishing quality which makes him man, w/o kindness.

II. THE SOURCE OF KINDNESS

A. God - Lk. 6:35

1. Expressed in history - Psa. 106:1-2

2. Pronounced in His word - Psa. 25:8; Tit. 3:4-5

3. Demonstrated in Jesus - Eph. 2:7

B. A fruit of the Spirit - Gal. 5:22

1. Caring is the essence of being a member of humanity

2. It has saved more than one person from sure destruction - Lot, Gen 19; Rahab, Joshua 2

3. An essential component of our uniform - Col. 3:12

III. WHERE IT APPEARS

A. At home

1. Paul's instruction - Titus 2:5

2. Husbands too since they love - Eph. 5:25, 28

B. Directive to brethren - Eph. 4:32

1. Tenderhearted - compassionate (deep, inside feelings)

2. Forgiving - freely, not grudgingly

C. Displayed among all men - Acts 27:3; 28:2; 2 Pet. 1:7

IV. HINDRANCES - Eph. 4:31

A. Bitterness "Longstanding resentment; as a spirit that refuses to be reconciled. Fig. term denoting that fretted & irritable state of mind that keeps a man in perpetual animosity - that inclines him to harsh and uncharitable opinions of men and things - that makes him sour, crabby, and repulsive that brings a scowl over his face, and infuses venom into his words.

B. Wrath the turbulent commotion, the boiling agitation of the feelings; the kind of anger which is like the flame coming from straw.

C. Anger an abiding and settled angry habit of mind.

D. Clamor noisy arguing & quarreling. "The yelling tones, the loud & boisterous recrimination that mark a man in a towering rage.

E. Railing slander or abusive speech hurtful to others' reputation. wickedness; bad-heartedness = the root of the above vices.

Kind love makes no demands before it's employed, asks nothing for the favor bestowed.

It reaches out, not in.

It looks more for opportunities than for friends.

It does not require the measurement of status before it is extended.

It is courageous, spending itself lavishly in spite of the risks.

It does not require constant stroking and may even be embarrassed at recognition.

Love is kind.