

Kindness

(Romans 12:1-2)

Introduction:

1. In Romans 12:1-2, some very important general instructions are given.
 - a. Vs.1 teaches us to present ourselves as living sacrifices to God.
 - b. Vs.2 teaches us not to be conformed to this world.
2. In the remainder of this chapter, God's people are given some specific instructions that relate to presenting ourselves as living sacrifices to God.
3. We are especially concerned with the instruction given in vs.10a -- *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love."*
4. In our lesson we are concentrating on a number of passages that relate to "kindness."
5. As we study this subject, let us remember the general instructions given in vs.1-2.
 - a. We are to present ourselves as living sacrifices to God.
 - b. We are not to be conformed to this world.
6. We need to pay close attention to the things we are studying because we constantly see and hear people demonstrating a lack of kindness.
7. If we are not careful this influence will rub off on us, and we must not allow this to happen.
8. Let us begin our study by showing that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE TEACHES CHRISTIANS TO BE KIND
 - A. (Ephesians 4:31-32) Not only are Christians to be kind, but we are to put away everything that opposes kindness.
 - B. The same basic information is presented in Colossians 3:8, 12-13.
 - C. (2 Peter 1:7) *"Brotherly kindness"* is one of the Christian graces that we are to develop with *"all diligence."*
 - D. Since the Bible teaches Christians to be kind, we must understand . . .
- II. WHAT KINDNESS IS
 - A. A kind person possesses a pleasant or benevolent disposition, is considerate and helpful, and is compassionate and concerned about other people.
 - B. To help us understand what kindness is, let us look at God's example.
 1. Paul described God's kindness in Titus 3:3-7.
 2. Jesus also described God's kindness in Luke 6:35.
 - a. God is kind to good people and to those who are grateful to Him.
 - b. God is also *"kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."*

- C. God helps us understand what kindness is, and He shows us that kindness is to be shown to those who deserve it as well as those who do not.
- D. Let us turn our attention to . . .

III. SOME ADDITIONAL MATTERS RELATING TO KINDNESS

- A. To be kind, we must possess the right type of love.
 - 1. (1 Corinthians 13:4) Love *"is kind."*
 - 2. (1 Corinthians 13:5) Love *"is not easily provoked."*
- B. To be kind, we must not provoke people (Galatians 5:26).
- C. Kindness, as well as the lack of it, can be demonstrated through our words.
 - 1. In describing the virtuous woman, Proverbs 31:26 says: *"in her tongue is the law of kindness."*
 - 2. Let us follow the instructions given in James 1:19-20.
- D. Kindness, as well as the lack of it, will affect the way others treat us.
 - 1. This is illustrated in 2 Chronicles 10:7.
 - 2. The aged men of Israel advised Rehoboam to be kind to his people.
 - 3. The king rejected this advice, and many of the Israelites rebelled against him.

Conclusion:

- 1. The key to being kind is having the right things in the heart (Proverbs 23:7).
- 2. Kindness will not be found in the same heart where there are things such as envy, uncontrolled anger, hatred, evil speaking, grudges, and vengeance.
- 3. Kindness will be found in the heart where there are things such as courtesy, compassion, mercy, meekness, patience, humility, and forgiveness.