

Let Us Put On Kindness

(Colossians 3:12-14)

Introduction:

1. Colossians 3 contains a number of important instructions that are designed to help us live as the Lord desires.
 - a. Vs.1&2 teach us to seek those things that are above, and vs.3&4 show why we are to do so.
 - b. Vs.5-7 list several activities that we are to mortify.
 - c. In vs.8-9a additional activities are listed that we are to put off, and we are shown why we are to do so in vs.9b-11.
 - d. 7 characteristics are listed in vs.12-13 that we are to put on.
 - e. Vs.14 teaches us to put on love above all the other characteristics.
2. In our lesson we are concentrating on one particular matter mentioned in vs.12 -- we are to put on kindness.
3. We need to pay close attention to the things we are studying because we constantly see and hear people demonstrating a lack of kindness.
4. We must not allow this influence to rub off on us.
8. Let us begin our study by showing that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE LORD'S PEOPLE ARE TO BE KIND
 - A. Colossians 3:12 is very clear in teaching us to be kind.
 - B. Additional passages include:
 1. Ephesians 4:31-32 -- Not only are the Lord's people to be kind, but we are to put away everything that opposes kindness
 2. 2 Peter 1:7 -- "*Brotherly kindness*" is one of the Christian graces that we are to develop with "*all diligence.*"
 - C. Since the Lord requires kindness from His people, we must understand what it is.
- II. LET US DEFINE "KINDNESS"
 - 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. God's kindness is described 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. We must possess the right type of love -- love "*is kind*" (1 Corinthians 13:4).
- 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. Some helpful instructions are 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 be lacking when there are things in the heart such as envy, uncontrolled anger, hatred, evil speaking, grudges, and vengeance.
- 3. Kindness will not be lacking when there are things in the heart such as courtesy, compassion, mercy, meekness, patience, humility, and forgiveness.
- 4. Let us provide the right example at all times before others.