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What about Kindness & Good Deeds? A Brief Biblical Overview

✦ Why Kindness? Kindness biblically defined.

Kindness is central to God's nature, His loyal love and His favor toward people. In the Old Testament, the word translated as "**kindness**" or "**lovingkindness**" refers to God's long-suffering love—His determination to keep His promises to people **in spite** of what they did wrong.

This **attribute** of God was consistently shown through His divine mercy and His forgiveness. He is a Father, who delights in demonstrating **kindness** in the earth.

Jeremiah 9:24

Let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding **to know me**, that I am the LORD, who exercises **kindness**, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD. NIV

*"Kindness is not an apathetic response,
but an intentional act to draw a person toward the Father's heart.."*



✦ Why Kindness? Jesus Demonstrated kindness. He modeled the way.

He continually declared, taught, and demonstrated the value of kindness through serving others practically meeting their needs mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically.

Matthew 20:25-28

"But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." NASB

His first act of service...Water to wine...Remember? He was at a wedding party with...He served, meeting their need; honoring the Brides father by giving away the best wine. This caring act of service is how He first revealed his glory.

Feeding the 5,000... the people were hungry, He served them by feeding the people. This is how He established the principle of sharing and giving as He taught His disciples.

He healed all who came to Him...He **demonstrated** the kindness and love of God. He went around doing good...and...healing all who were oppressed....

His last act of service with His disciples before the cross?...At the Passover meal He washed their feet, leaving an example to humbly serve as He had served.

His last act of service before the ascension? He fed the disciples a fish breakfast on the beach.

Amazingly, He will serve all who are His at the marriage supper of the Lamb!

From creations beginning, to the end of His earthly mission, and now in Heaven He is a serving King



Why Kindness? The Disciples modeled what Jesus did and encouraged others to do the same. They practiced humility and serving.

Paul consistently defined himself and his team as bond-slaves, and as servants. Paul labored among the people as a tent-maker. He didn't want to financially burden the people he served.

1 Cor 3:5-9

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only **servants**, through whom you came to believe-- as the Lord has assigned to each his task.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.

9 For we are God's fellow workers. NIV



📖 Why Kindness Pastoral Epistles / Peter / John instruct us to be a kindness-now people.

It is interesting to read the **thought—connected** passages concerning doing good, and serving others. The Pastoral Epistles and Peter and John were to be read by every leader. The pastoral epistles were written to give instruction to **Pastors** to encourage positive behavior among the people. Serving others and doing good were central to their lifestyle and their instruction.

1 Tim 6:17-19

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 **Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.** 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. NIV

Titus 2:11-15

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope —the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, **eager to do what is good.** (zealous for good works.) 15 **These, then, are the things you should teach.** Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you. NIV

Titus 3:8

This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you **to stress these things**, so that those who have trusted in God may **be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.** These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. NIV

Titus 3:14

Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives. NIV

1John 3:18-19

Beloved children, our love can't be an abstract theory we only talk about, but **a way of life** demonstrated through our **loving deeds**. We know that the truth lives within us because **we demonstrate love in action...** (TPT)

1 Pet 2:12

Keep your **behavior** excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, **they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them**, glorify God in the day of visitation.(NAS)

1 Pet 2:15

For it is God's will that by **doing good** you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. (NIV)



📌 Why Kindness? The kindness of God leads people to repentance.

David's plea for forgiveness was based on his **understanding**, and his **experience**, of God's unfailing love...**Gods' Loving Kindness**.

Ps 51:1-2

Have mercy on me, O God, **according to your unfailing love (lovingkindness)**; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. (NIV)

In the New Testament, the Greek word translated as "**grace**" best represents the idea of God's kindness or lovingkindness... His empowering Presence. His consistent day by day unfailing grace. Because God has been merciful and gracious toward us, we should treat all people with kindness, grace, respect and tolerance.

Luke 6:35

(Jesus) But **love** your enemies, **do good to them**, and **lend to them** without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is **kind** to the ungrateful and wicked. (NIV)

Romans 2:4 **God's kindness** is intended to **lead** you to repentance... *(a changed mind, how we think about His love for us and what He offers to us, which leads to a yes response, which changes our heart.)* NIV



📌 Why Kindness? Our beliefs determine our actions.

Believing God is Good, and is Kind is our foundational belief.

This core belief enhances our connection to God as Father, and should flow out of us into our relationship with others.

What we believe about God's nature and character will shape our thoughts, our attitudes and our actions. Our beliefs govern our attitudes and how we treat ourselves and others.

If we believe God is a loving Father, we will tend to extend love and kindness toward ourselves, and toward others who are created in His image.

Heb 11:6

And without **faith** it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that **he exists** and that **he rewards** those who earnestly seek him. (NIV)

We believe He is and He is good—by faith.

Acts 10:38

You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about **doing good**, and **healing all** who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him. (NAS)

Eph 2:6-7

And **God** raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages **he** might show the incomparable riches of **his** grace, expressed in **his kindness to us in Christ Jesus**. (NIV)

Titus 3:4-5

But when the **kindness and love of God our Savior appeared**, 5 **he saved us**, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **He saved us** through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, (NIV)

Rom 2:4

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that **God's kindness leads you toward repentance?** (NIV)



📖 Why Kindness? The Holy Spirit reveals the goodness and the nature of God by the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit revealed through the lives of believers.

Gal 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (NIV)

1 Cor. 13:7

Love is patient and love is kind. NASB

We fall short when we are not patient or kind. We love when we choose to respond with patience and kindness.

1 Cor 14:1

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit. NIV

The spiritual gifts are always developed as we love and encourage others.

What's The Point?

Understanding and receiving God's **grace and kindness** has everything to do with **how** we view life, and **how** we treat people as we reach our world.

Our presentation, our demonstration, and our proclamation of the Good News is based on our perception of God's nature and character—how we view, experience, and receive His love.

If we only see Him as a severe God...we may have a tendency to be severe toward ourselves and others. If we only see Him as kind we may not have proper honor for God's holiness and nature.

We hold these truths in tension. If we were to choose which side to fall upon, it would be to fall upon the merciful kind side. Here is the reality: All, everyone, who fell at the feet of Jesus received mercy, grace, salvation, and healing.

To fear and yet to be unafraid is the great paradox of the Christian faith. Tozer

The Principle—Freely give, as you have received. Have we received love, mercy and forgiveness? Then we should willingly, and gracefully, extend His love and kindness to others. Love is patient and kind. Love does. Love is an action word. Intentional acts of kindness reveal love in a practical way—no strings attached.

Gal 6:9-10

Let us not become weary in **doing good**, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.10 Therefore, **as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.**(NIV)