

Kindness

There needs to be a larger measure of kindness in the church. Some of the early congregations apparently had their problems mastering this virtue.



You know the story of David and Goliath... What did David do with Goliath's armor?

Paul compelled compliance from the Ephesians when he wrote:

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and railing, be put away from you, with all malice; and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:31-32).

It is interesting that the verb in this passage linked to the word “kind” literally means “to become,” and its present tense form would suggest, “**practice becoming kind to one another.**” This indicates that kindness is something that has to be diligently pursued and practiced. It does not come easily when dealing with people.

How many church problems might be healed if brethren were kinder to each other? In some congregations, where elders do not exist, “meetings” have often become a battlefield for the display of all sorts of harshness. Some brethren appear to be unable to approach an issue except in the “attack” mode. Thankfully, this type of activity is foreign to many followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are men who serve as shepherds (elders, pastors) who do not treat their flock with kindness. Have you noticed how many of the qualifications relate to the quality of genuine kindness? Such traits as “no brawler,” “no striker,” “not contentious,” “gentle,” “patient,” “given to hospitality,” “just,” a “lover of good men?” These characteristics are required for godly leaders.

As almost anyone who has observed the brotherhood “news” knows, there are some preachers who find it most difficult to disagree with others without punctuating their words with the harshest sort of labels and descriptions. To them, “kindness” is not a virtue; it is compromise and weakness. It should not be this way when defending the truth. God’s mercy is needed.

There are, of course, occasions when a person may be compelled to deal with error in a very forceful way. Jesus surely did (see Matthew 23), and He is the supreme example of kindness. The inspired writers of the New Testament also had to deal with heresy and the followers thereof. Some things must be done.

There is, however, a difference between dealing with a “false thought process” or “an erring brother,” and that of being downright vicious. Some men have unceremoniously mastered the art of hatefulness while others strive to show kindness toward all.

May we strive to provide a much kinder atmosphere in the various situations of our lives. Kindness—it does a spiritual body good!

To our valued visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few “family” announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord’s Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible. Any response is up to you and will be kindly received. We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

Birthday/Anniversary Lunch: Second Sunday...

NMCCH: Spray & Wash and Bar Bath Soap (pick up in **April 6, 2019**)

Friday Bible Study: 7 to 8 PM, yes, every Friday ... God bless your study of His Word!

Congregational Holiday Party:

Sunday (**12/16**) after PM service (more INFO on bulletin board)

LAST Ladies Bible Class for the Year:

on Wednesday (**12/19**). The women will have an ornament gift exchange after a short lesson. The Men’s Bible Study participants are invited to stay for lunch.

Building Relationships

Seminar: at Howe, **January 11-13, 2019** (more INFO on bulletin board)