



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

SKYVIEW BULLETIN

Volume 11 Number 26

June 13, 2010

KINDNESS, A LOST ART



OPERATION KINDNESS

Kindness is seldom seen in our society today. We see the opposite many times. We see people who have fits of anger. We witness road rage. We hear people saying unkind things to each other. We see people who go out of their way to avoid showing kindness to some else.

Yet, kindness is something that God demands of Christians. Kindness is the result of love (1 Cor. 13:4). We are told to be kind to one another (Eph. 4:32). We are told that a fruit of the spirit is kindness (Gal. 5:22). The character of the Christian is described in Col. 3:12, where we are told to put on or clothe ourselves with kindness. Peter describes virtues we are to develop and pointed out we are to add

brotherly kindness to our godliness and to brotherly kindness we are to add love (2 Pet. 1:7).

One of the words translated “kindness” in the New Testament is the Greek *chrestotes* which means “gentleness.” When we consider this meaning, we can easily see the lack of this trait in the world in which we live today. People are not often gentle in their relationships with other people. Many times harsh, unkind, angry words are spoken to or about people. This is certainly not the way God’s people should act.

Christians can be unkind at times. One of the greatest challenges to our kindness is when we have been hurt by a fellow Christian or wronged by a brother or sister. The natural reaction is to strike back—to retaliate—to punish who ever is guilty of the wrong. But, is this the way we are to conduct ourselves as Christians? There is an old adage that I believe applies here: “Two wrongs don’t make a right.”

We can be kind when we follow the example of the epitome of kindness: the kindness of God. Notice what the Bible says about God’s kindness: “*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us,*” (Titus 3:4). “*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*” (Eph 2:7-8).

God’s kindness toward us, who do not deserve His kindness should motivate each of us to show kindness to others. A kind word spoken, a good deed done for someone, even someone who has wronged us, will make us feel better and it will please God. The next time you are tempted to be unkind, remember what the Bible says about our responsibility to show kindness to others. Remember God’s kindness to us when he saved us through His Son, Jesus.

**Christians
can be
unkind
at
times.**

ELDERS

*Ron Bastien
Don Greenlee
Charles Murray
David Roberts*

DEACONS

*Ron Bentz
Frank Edwards
Jim Ingram
George Loyd
Andy Murray
Dennis Trask
Brad VanHaerents*

PREACHER

Charles Murray

MEN WE SUPPORT

*William Stewart--Kingston, Canada
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba*

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Classes.....10:50 A.M.
Worship.....6:00 P.M.

WORSHIP PLACE

4050 80th Ave N
PO Box 3118
Pinellas Park, Fla. 33780

WEB: skyviewchurch.org

Sermons & classes now on
Comcast

**SERMONS & CLASSES
NOW AVAILABLE
ON LINE ON OUR
WEBSITE**

**MAY 2010 BE THE BEST
YEAR EVER!**

CEM

"HOW COULD YOU?"



"How could you?" Often this question is asked when someone is upset or angry. But it is often asked prematurely. It is a question that is asked when a suspicion of guilt has already placed the blame before all of the facts have been gathered. It is an assessment that has already been made prior to carefully weighing all of the evidence.

In Joshua 22, the story is told of the Israelites taking over the land of Canaan for their own possession. Joshua divided the land between the twelve tribes with an allotment given to each tribe. The tribes that had been given land on the east side of the Jordan were returning to their homes they had temporarily left to fight for their brothers. On the way back home two and half tribes set up an impressive altar on the banks of the Jordan. The other tribes on the west side of the river heard of this and responded immediately by gathering the assembly of the Jews to make war on these



Adult

Auditorium

New class

beginning in

January:

The Life Of Christ

GOD'S

PLAN OF SALVATION

Believe—Heb. 11:6

Repent—Luke 13:3

Confess—Rom. 10:9

Be Baptized—

Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:38,

1 Pet. 3:21

They made
a rash
judgment
based on the
way things
looked on the
surface

two and a half tribes. Ambassadors were sent to talk to these "wayward" brethren before firing the first shot, (shooting the first arrow), or slinging the first stone, or thrusting the first sword. The whole assembly asked, "How could you break faith with God? How could you turn away from God?"

The problem was that an assumption had been made. They assumed that the two and one half tribes had rebelled against the true God. They made a rash judgment based on the way things looked on the surface.

The accused tribes responded by saying: *"The mighty, One, God, the Lord! The mighty One, God, the Lord, He knows! And let Israel know!"* (Josh. 22:22). They explained that the altar they had built was not for the purpose of offering sacrifices, as the rest of Israel had presumed, but rather was built as a memorial and witness that they were a part of Israel. They had a right to bring their sacrifices to the sanctuary of the Lord. The rest of Israel had made some

assumptions without knowing all of the facts. They were asking, "How could you do this" before they really knew what the two and one half tribes were doing. How easy it is for us to make these same kinds of assumptions and rush to judgment.

There are some principles we need to learn and apply to ourselves when it comes to our relationships within the body of Christ.

1. We should suspend judgment until we have gathered all of the facts.
2. We should go to those we believe are guilty of sin.
3. We should not be accusatory in our approach to others ("How could you?").
4. We should offer those caught in sin a way of escape.
5. We should rejoice when we learn that the accused are right with God.
6. We should take solace in the fact that whenever others misunderstand us or make wrong accusations about us that God knows our hearts.

It is easy for us, in our anger to assume we know all of the facts in a situation, and make accusations prematurely. It is easy for us to say things without thinking of the harm our words will do or the hurt they will bring to someone, often those who are innocent.

Let us all be motivated to think before we speak. The question, "How could you?" may need to be asked of us, when we are guilty of accusing someone else. "How could you speak the way you did?" "How could you rush to judgment?" "How could you make an accusation before all the facts are known?" Let us be careful to follow Col 4:6: *"Let your speech be seasoned with salt so you will know how to answer everyone."* CEM