**Loving Our Neighbors**

**Love the Way Jesus Taught It**

**The Characteristics of Love**

**Love is Kind**

**I. The Relationship between Love and “Kindness”**

A. Paul uses a Greek verb that is only used once in the NT

B. Paul may have invented a new verb to capture his meaning—“kinding”

C. The noun form used frequently means: “the quality of being good, beneficial, or helpful to another”

D. Used of God—His quality of loyal commitment to doing good to His people.

1. Psalm 52:8-9 - *But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the* ***lovingkindness*** *of God forever and ever. 9 I will give You thanks forever, because You have done it, And I will wait on Your name, for it is* ***good****, in the presence of Your godly ones.*

2. **Romans 2:4** - *Or do you think lightly of the riches of His* ***kindness*** *and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the* ***kindness*** *of God leads you to repentance?*

3. **Ephesians 2:7** - *so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in* ***kindness*** *toward us in Christ Jesus.*

4. **Titus 3:4-5** - *But when the* ***kindness*** *of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*

E. Used regarding humanity

1. **Romans 3:12** - *All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does* ***good****, there is not even one.”*

2. **Galatians 5:22-23** - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,* ***kindness****, goodness, faithfulness,23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

3. **Colossians 3:12** - *So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion,* ***kindness****, humility, gentleness and patience;13bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*

F. God’s kindness is His covenant faithfulness to act for the well-being of His people

G. I am “kinding” when I am “loyally doing good” to an image bearer of God because I am concerned about that person’s long term well-being

If *patience* takes all evil from others, *kindness* faithfully gives all good to others.

**II. The Relationship between Love and “Not Being Jealous”**

A. To “not be jealous” means

to not lust after another’s perceived or real well-being (their “good”—their accomplishments, success, possessions, skills, heath, joy, peace, relationships, fame, etc.)

B. Examples

1. **Acts 7:9** - *“The patriarchs became* ***jealous*** *of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. Yet God was with him,*

2. **Acts 17:4-5** - *And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.5 But the Jews, becoming* ***jealous*** *and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.*

C. Positively: If ***kindness*** seeks to loyally do good to another person because of a concern for their well-being, then ***not being jealous*** means I rejoice when they experience any well-being (good, success, health, accomplishment, etc.).

**III. The Reasons Why Paul Reminded the Corinthians of These Qualities**

A. The Corinthians’ jealousy over certain teachers was destroying their relational unity (1 Cor. 1-4).

B. The Corinthians’ unkindness in allowing an unrepentant immoral man to remain in that state was weakening the church (1 Cor. 5)

C. The Corinthians’ unkindness was leading to divisive lawsuits. (1 Cor. 6)

D. The Corinthians’ unkindness was causing weaker brethren to stumble (1 Cor. 8-11)

E. The Corinthians jealousy over certain spiritual gifts was creating chaos (1 Cor. 12-14)

F. Summary: The individual Corinthian regarded and rejoiced first his/her own well-being rather than the well-being of another.

**IV. The Relevance for Us Today**

How does one grow in kindness and not being jealous?

A. Recognize your personal clamoring after your own benefit at the expense of others.

B. Repent of your unkindness and jealously.

C. Rest in Christ’s promise that He’s got your good covered and you are filled in Christ.

D. Relinquish your hold on grasping for your personal benefit

E. Practice loyally do good, or being useful, beneficial to others.

F. Practice consistent rejoicing over those who are experiencing goodness, knowing you have ultimate goodness in Christ.

G. Relish the joy and freedom that ensues.