

## Kindness

**Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander [evil speaking] be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.** (Ephesians 4:31-32)

In the KJV, the Greek word for *gentleness* in Galatians 5:22 (*kreestotees*) is also translated in other verses as *kindness*, *good*, and *goodness*; most modern versions translate it as *kindness* in this verse.<sup>1</sup> A kind person is one who is friendly, generous, considerate, and merciful toward others. The opposite of kindness is demonstrated through such traits as meanness, cruelty, hate, heartlessness, and vengeance. Although many believers are unkind to others through word or deed (intentionally or unintentionally), we should endeavor to never behave that way to anyone; we are commanded to not defraud, slander (insult, disparage, lie about, or speak evil of), or seek vengeance upon others (I Corinthians 6:7-8; Ephesians 4:25, 31; I Thessalonians 5:15; Colossians 3:8-9; Titus 3:1-2; Romans 12:14-21).

Brethren, we are saved by the kindness of God (Titus 3:4-7). Love is kind (I Corinthians 13:4), and through love we are exhorted to be kind and tender-hearted (compassionate) toward one another, forgiving each other just as God forgave us through Christ (Colossians 3:12-13). Kindness is a desirable quality (Proverbs 19:22; 31:26), therefore, and we should not let kindness and truth leave us (Proverbs 14:22). Additionally, we should actively demonstrate, or live according to, kindness (II Peter 1:5-7).

**Do not let kindness [mercy] and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute [understanding] in the sight of God and man.** (Proverbs 3:3-4)

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<sup>1</sup> *Kreestotees* is translated as *kindness* in the KJV in II Corinthians 6:6, Ephesians 2:7, Colossians 3:12, and Titus 3:4.