

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Quote:

Time grants no grace for paths not walked, for love not shown, for truth not taught.

Once spent it's gone and ne'er regained. What might have been can't be reclaimed.

Invest your time like treasure rare, for time is life; naught else compares.

Years flee like minutes towards our end, and chances lost won't come again.

Give of yourself to those held dear, for mem'ries shared will keep you near.

Kind words and deeds of love will grow in value through the time you sow.

Kindness is a “sweetness of temper which makes us greatly useful and delightful”¹ to others. It is “tender concern for others” and “a desire to treat them gently just as the Lord treats all believers.”² Kindness demonstrates itself through politeness in our conversations with others. “There is a grace of kind listening, as well as a grace of kind speaking.”³ We can say much through our facial expressions without saying anything to people with our tongues. We must constantly work on kindness of expression in our body language as well as in what we say.

Kindness is not an option. We are commanded to add to our faith brotherly kindness or love for other Christians that meets their needs. Paul wrote, “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And *be kind to one another*, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”⁴ Paul wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica, “Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were *gentle (kind)* among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing

for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not *only the gospel of God, but also our own lives*, because you had become dear to us.”⁵

“Christianity produces true courteousness, or politeness. It does not make a person rough, rude, stiff, or sour. The secret of true politeness is a desire to make others happy; and a Christian should be the most polite of men. His politeness is to be based on kindness. His courtesy is to be the result of love, good will, and a desire for the happiness of all others. Kindness will prompt conduct that will be both peaceable and profitable for others.”⁶ It involves the daily choice of obedience to a clear command of Scripture— “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put *on* tender mercies, *kindness*, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another; and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”⁷

Sadly, a pathetic lack of kindness in professing Christians is often evident in their interactions with others when under pressure. If anything, gratitude for God's kindness to us in salvation should cause us to do deeds of unmerited kindness to others that may foster some interest in the gospel.

Someone once said, “Every moment is the right one to be kind. A kind deed often does more good than a large gift.” Like much of the true service that we do for God, kind deeds done with no thought of recognition or “payback” bring with them the sense that we have imitated Christ. They are investments in others.

“Do a deed of simple kindness;
Though its end you may not see,
It may reach, like widening ripples,
Down a long eternity.”⁸

Would folks think of you as an actively kind person by the pattern of your words, deeds and attitudes?

1 William Burkitt 2 A.T. Roberson 3 F.W. Faber 4 Ephesians 4:31-32
5 I Thess.2:6-8 6 Albert. Barnes 7 Colossians 3:12-14 8 J Morris