



CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Sunday 19.11.2023

“Kindness”

Preacher

Ps. Andrew MacCallum

Scripture

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

Colossians 3:12-15

Thought

Christmas can be a stressful time, it places pressure on relationships and raises tensions within families. Maybe more than ever, it’s important to be different in this season.

This passage in colossians is a picture of the home we want to have, the workplace we want, the communities we want. It calls us to clothe ourselves and to put on compassion, kindness, humility and patience. This is the uniform of the believer - not that we all look the same, but that we are recognised by a common thread through our belonging to Jesus and our united purpose.



To clothe ourselves in these things, we must intentionally put them on. As we dwell in the scripture and allow it to come alive in our hearts, we can choose to clothe ourselves with the fruits of the spirit, and especially in this season, to clothe ourselves in kindness.

Kindness is not just a one-off random act, but it's something far greater. It's living a life of intentional kindness, the cultivating of a heart that defaults to kindness in every sphere of our lives - from our friends to family, our kids, our workmates, every relationship.

Christ's kindness is not based on merit - it's a gift of undeserved grace, powered out for us upon the Cross. It supersedes logic and reason, and it changes who we are at a deep level. His kindness and love softens our heart and opens our minds to His character. It is His extravagant kindness through the gift of salvation that changes us and drives us as His image bearers, enabling us to show His kindness to those in our lives - from our closest relationships to those we are yet to meet.

As we dwell on this, it changes the way we show kindness to others because our thoughts and actions come from a deep understanding that we have first received God's unmerited grace and love.

And so, as we reflect His kindness and invite Him to impart His character within us, so we shine brightly in the world in a season so often marked by anxiety, pointing others to His grace and letting that same grace continue to transform us to His likeness.

Discussion Points

1. How did Jesus show kindness to those He encountered?
2. How does God's salvation show His kindness to me?
3. When I look at the world around me and the places where my life intersects (be that in person or via social media), what does it look like, practically, to be a beacon of kindness?



Personal application + Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for your Kindness. Today, I take a moment to reflect in gratitude on the countless times you have shown your love and grace in my life. Let my life reflect Your kindness, and do the work in my heart that You need to do. Melt away my defences, silence my worried mind and let my heart be transformed into Your likeness. May I understand just a glimpse of your love, and show it to my world.

Amen.