

Thanks!

Special thanks to everyone who helped get the building and grounds in order for our meeting next week!

Mark your calendar!

Men's Business Meeting: Today at **4:00 p.m.**

"Barnabas Group" Meeting: Tuesday, **February 18** at 7:00 p.m. at Hudson home. (Make your "plan" to be kind, to encourage, to love "*especially those of the household of faith*").

"Last Saturday in February" Meeting!

Saturday, **February 22**

Singing, Friday night, **February 21** at 7:00 p.m.

(If you want to help Jim prepare the lunch area at his home, see him; work time will be on Thursday and Friday, February 20 & 21)

February Birthdays

8 Zoie Perales 18 Hazel Brouillette 24 Jonathan Munayco

(Note: if anyone is "missed" here, let Jim know)

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Carlos Peña

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Love is Kind

By Allen Webster

Longsuffering and kindness are opposing banks of the same river of love or opposite sides of the same coin of character. Longsuffering is passive; kindness is active. Longsuffering means that we hold back from doing something hurtful; kindness means that we do something useful. Longsuffering will take anything from others; kindness will give anything to others. Longsuffering turns the other cheek (Matthew 5:39); kindness holds out a hand to help (Proverbs 3:27).

The word translated "kind" (*chresteuomai*) is found only in 1 Corinthians 13:4 in the New Testament and has both utility and magnanimity in it. Strong says it means "to show oneself useful." Origen said this means love is "sweet to all." Jerome spoke of what he called "the benignity" of love. Other says it means "to show oneself mild, to be gracious." When Jesus said, "*My yoke is easy, and my burden is light*" (Matthew 11:30), the word "easy" is the same idea Paul is communicating. One little boy's definition of kindness was, "When I ask mom for a peanut butter sandwich and she gives me a peanut butter and jelly sandwich!"

Its utility and magnanimity is illustrated by a story told by the naturalist, W. H. Hudson. He watched a thrush and a blackbird that appeared to be friends, always coming together to the place where food was put out for the birds. He thought it odd that the blackbird picked up crumbs and put them in the thrush's mouth. Then he noticed that a trap had cut off the thrush's beak close to its head so that it could not pick up food, and the blackbird was coming to the rescue.

Kindness is doing for others what we would want done for ourselves (Matthew 7:12). Mark Twain said, "Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

A Christian's body belongs to the Lord (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Three parts of one's anatomy are needed to express the kindness of love.

Love has a kind mind.

We are to have the "*mind of Christ*" (Philippians 2:5), and His mind was filled with kindness. While it is possible and even popular to "*imagine evil against his brother in your heart*" (Zechariah 7:10), God wants us to dream up ways we can assist a brother. God set the standard high by His own character. Jehovah is a God "*of great kindness*" (Nehemiah 9:17; Romans 2:4; Titus 3:4-6). He is even "*kind unto the unthankful and to the evil*" (Luke 6:35). Someone put it this way:

I have wept in the night, for the shortness of sight,
That to somebody's need made me blind:
But I have never yet felt a twinge of regret
For being a little too kind.

Love has a kind tongue.

Of the virtuous woman it is said, "*In her tongue is the law of kindness*" (Proverbs 31:26). "*Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones*" (Proverbs 16:24). Another writer, not quite as wise, said, "Pick your friends, but not to pieces."

A hobo knocked on the door of an English inn called George and the Dragon, and a woman opened it. "Could I have a bite to eat?" he said. "No!" screamed the woman, slamming the door. He knocked again and the woman opened the door. "Now could I have a few words with George?"

Solomon said, "*There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*" (Proverbs 12:18). Many people are lonely in old age because they spent a lifetime building walls instead of bridges. If someone were to pay you a dollar for every kind word, and collect fifty cents for every unkind word, would you be rich or poor?

Love has kind hands.

Love does kind things (1 John 3:16-19). Rebekah showed kindness to Abraham's servant (Genesis 24:18-20). Jesus went about "doing good," or you could say He went about being kind (Acts 10:38).

Love is not just a kind feeling about others but a kind action toward them (Matthew 5:40-41). Love is a verb! The virtuous woman "*extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy.*" (Proverbs 31:20). Her heart was large, her tongue was gracious, and her hand was open. Kindness is the "delight" (desire KJV) of a godly man (Proverbs 19:22). It is one of the virtues we are to seek to multiply in our characters (2 Peter 1:7). A Christian is kind to his brothers and sisters (Ephesians 4:32). A Christian husband is kind to his wife and children. Brothers and sisters are kind to each other and to their parents. Love wears kindness (Colossians 3:12). Someone said, "Kindness is the chief foreman in the shop of good works."

A president of Kiwanis International tells this story about himself: One cold winter evening after working all day, he left his office very tired. He started his car, and while it was warming up, he noticed a little nine- or ten-year-old boy standing in front of a store crying. He thought to himself, "Should I get involved?" He got out of his car and walked over to the boy and asked, "What's the matter, son?" "Not anything," was the reply. "Surely, something is bothering you."

The boy started crying and said, "My daddy sent me to the store with a dollar to buy some things and I have lost the dollar." He sobbed and then continued, "My daddy is home, drinking, and I can't go back home until my daddy goes to sleep." The man thought to himself, "I had to do something" so he got out a dollar so he could buy the thing for his daddy, and gave him some extra money to spend on himself. As he turned to leave, the little fellow ran, embraced him with an arm around his waist, looked up at him and said, "Mister, I sure do wish you were my daddy!"

The man telling the story said, "Do you know what I did then? I drove around thirty or forty blocks to see if I could find another little boy who had lost a dollar!"

Such kindness has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence, or teaching (1 Peter 3:1-9). Who do you think would have been more likely to convert the man who had been robbed in Jesus' parable—the passing priest, the looking Levite, or the sympathizing Samaritan? (Luke 10:25-37). Seneca said, "Wherever there is a human being there is an opportunity for a kindness."