

Priorities of Faith

DAY 7 — THE VALUE OF BEING KIND

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35, ESV)

The Defining Quality

At the end of your life, if you could be remembered for just one character quality, what would that be? If just one trait depicted what you stood for and what you valued most, what would you choose? Many answers are possible, but one key aspect of God’s character should be reflected in all of our lives. In Titus 3:4, the Bible tells us that the kindness of God, our Savior, appeared to us when His love saved us.

Kindness! The kindness of God. Kindness is a universal language that can be understood by old and young, rich and poor, male and female, deaf or blind. Kindness knows no language barrier. It has a universal appeal, like music. A friendly smile, a helping hand in times of need, support when we feel discouraged, and a word of encouragement—all go a long way to make the hardships of our lives easier and more bearable. Kindness does not cost you very much, but it can make a huge difference in the lives of those who experience it, as well as in the lives of those who share it. Kindness is a win-win situation.

A Lovable Christian

Jesus knew that the kindness of His followers would serve as a powerful testimony of their faith. Shortly before His betrayal and death, after washing His disciples’ feet, Jesus told them, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). Ellen White echoes this insight: “The strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 470). When we deal with others in kindness, our love can reach hearts in unique ways beyond the borders of religion, ethnicity, and social status. I believe God created us with the desire to receive and share kindness, and doing so reflects the character of the God we adore. In Jonah 4:2 we read that God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness. The theme of God’s lovingkindness permeates the entire Bible, Old and New Testament.

Our acts of kindness bring comfort and joy not only to human beings but also to the heart of God. Kindness does not focus on the negative situations around us or on other people. Instead, it mirrors God’s character and the way He deals with us. Let us focus on what matters in life and be known as people who are kind to all.

Let’s pray together.

Prayer Time (30–45 Minutes)**Praying God's Word — John 13:35**

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

"By This All People Will Know That You Are My Disciples"

God, how often is our mission outreach unbalanced? We make theology, prophecy, fundamental beliefs, lifestyle, etc. the main focus. And while these things are good, true, important, and have a vital role and place, You clearly preached and, most importantly, lived out the reality that love is the strongest revelation of truth. Help us to live love and kindness together with truth, as You have for eternity. Amen.

"If You Have Love for One Another"

Dear Jesus, forgive us for our lack of selfless love. We truly have not fathomed Calvary-love. Forgive us for how we think about each other, what we say about each other, and how we treat each other. Please, Lord, fill us with Your divine love. Make us ambassadors of love and kindness. May people see Jesus in us and in how we treat each other. Bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, we pray. Amen.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Pray for regional and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (#319); So Send I You (#578); 'Tis Love That Makes Us Happy (#579)

Other Songs: Make Me a Servant; We Are His Hands; Micah 6:8 Scripture Song