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Love is Kind
13: 4b



Paired with the more passive side of **love** (**love is patient**), is a corresponding active side: **love is kind. Paul** does not describe **love** to us in the role of performing great, wonderful, and astounding deeds; **he** prefers to show us how the inner heart of **love** looks when it is placed among worldly people and weak believers. **He** does not picture **love** in ideal surroundings of friendship and affection where each individual embraces and kisses the other, but in the rough and tuff surroundings of a sinful world and faulty believers, where the stresses of life bring out the positive power and value of **love**.[401]

Just as **patience** (**to see link click Cv – Love is Patient**) will take anything from others, **kindness** will give anything to others. Being **kind** is the counterpart of being **patient**. To be **kind** (Greek: *chresteuomai*) means to be useful, serving, and gracious (see above). **Kindness** recognizes those who carry a heavy load in life. It is active goodwill. It not only feels generous, it *is* generous. It not only desires the welfare of others, but *works* for it. When **Yeshua** commanded **His** disciples (including us) to **love** their enemies **He** did not simply mean to feel **kindly** about them, but to be **kind** to them: **If someone wants to sue you for your shirt, let him have your coat as well! And if a soldier forces you to carry his pack for one mile, carry it for two (Matthew 5:40-41)!** The hard environment of a sinful,

fallen world gives **love** almost unlimited opportunity to exercise that sort of **kindness**. The **kindness** of believers in the second century so surprised the pagans that, according to the early Church father Tertullian, they called Christians *chrestiani* (made up of **kindness**) rather than *christiani* (Apol. 3.39).[402]

Again, **God** is the supreme model. **Or perhaps you despise the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience; because you don't realize that God's kindness is intended to lead you to turn from your sins (Romans 2:4). Paul** reminds us: **But when the kindness and love for mankind of God our Deliverer was revealed, He delivered us. It was not on the ground of any righteous deeds we had done, but on the ground of His own mercy. He did it by means of the mikveh of rebirth and the renewal brought about by the Ruach Ha'Kodesh, whom he poured out on us generously through Yeshua the Messiah, our Deliverer (Titus 3:4-6). Peter** tells us that we should **long for the pure milk of the Word** and thereby **grow in respect to salvation** because we **have tasted the kindness of the Lord (First Peter 2:2-3 NASB).** To **His** disciples **Yeshua** said: **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matthew 11:30).** The word **He** used for **easy** (Greek: *chresteuomai*) is the same one **Paul** uses for **kind** here in **13:4b**. In **His love** for those who belong to **Him**, **Messiah** makes **His yoke** kind. **He** makes sure that what **His** people are called to **bear** for **Him** is **bearable**. **No temptation has seized you beyond what people normally experience, and God can be trusted not to allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. On the contrary, along with the temptation he will also provide the way out, so that you will be able to endure (First Corinthians 10:13).**

For **the Corinthians**, **kindness** meant giving up their selfish, jealous, spiteful, and proud attitudes and adopting the spirit of **loving-kindness** (see the commentary on **Ruth Af – The Concept of Chesed**). Among other things, it would allow their spiritual gifts to be truly and effectively ministered in **the Spirit**, rather than superficially and unproductively counterfeited in the flesh.

The first test of our **kindness**, and the test of every aspect of **love**, is in the home! The believing husband who acts like a believer is **kind** to his wife and children. The believing wife who acts like a believer is **kind** to her husband and children. Brothers and sisters who are believers are **kind** to each other and their parents. They have more than **kind** feelings toward each other; they do **kind**, helpful things for each other – to the point of **loving** self-sacrifice, when necessary.[403]

*Dear Kind Heavenly **Father**, We bow in worship and praise of **You** our **father** who is overwhelmingly merciful, **kind** and l**oving**. **ADONAI is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and plentiful in mercy. . . For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His mercy for those who fear Him (Psalms 103:8, 12).** Not only do **You** not punish those who repent and turn to **You** in l**ove**, but amazingly **You** put their sins at an incredible **far** distance away. **As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us (Psalms 103:12).***

***You** are also holy and just. It is through **Your kindness** that **You** give your **righteousness** by **Yeshua's** painful and shameful death to those who **love You** so we can live with **You** in **Your** holy heaven.**He made the One who knew no sin to become a sin offering on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (Second Corinthians 5:21).** May **You** help me to live in **kindness** towards others. In **Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*