

The Line Between Kindness And Compromise

I. Introduction:

A. The saints in Ephesus were told: *“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you”* (**Ephesians 4:32**).

1. The Greek term translated “kind” [χρηστός] is defined as: “1) fit, fit for use, useful 1a) virtuous, good; 2) manageable; 2a) mild, pleasant (as opp. to harsh, hard sharp, bitter); 2b) of things: more pleasant, of people, kind, benevolent” (Thayer; Strong’s # 5543).

2. In other verses it the word is translated “easy” (**Matthew 11:30**), “better” (**Luke 5:39**), “kind” (**Luke 6:35**), “goodness” (**Romans 2:4**), “good” (**I Corinthians 15:33**), and “gracious” (**I Peter 2:3**).

3. To whom are we supposed to do good (**Galatians 6:10**)?

B. The Scriptures teach Christians to put on “kindness” (**Colossians 3:12**).

1. “Brotherly kindness” is part of the growth process of a Christian (**II Peter 1:7**).

2. “Great kindness” is an attribute of God (**Nehemiah 9:17**).

3. We see the kindness of God in Jesus coming (**Titus 3:4**).

II. Body: God Has A Balance (**Romans 11:22**). So, Where’s The Balance For Us?

A. Solomon wrote that to everything there is a time [due season (Strong’s Dict. # 6256) “occasion” (BDB)] (**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**).

1. Jesus showed compassion on certain occasions (**Mark 6:34**).

2. He showed anger on other occasions (**Mark 3:1-6**).

3. He showed love on certain occasions (**John 11:5**).

4. He showed disgust on other occasions (**John 2:13-17**).

5. Jesus wasn’t always mild [not harsh] (**Matthew 12:34** and **Luke 11:37-40**).

6. Jesus was sharp and unpleasant at times (**Matthew 23:33**, **Mark 8:31-33**, and **John 4:31-38**).

7. Jesus was not all about peace and unity (**Matthew 10:34-37**).

8. He is our sinless, perfect example (**I Peter 2:21-22**).

9. He showed us a mindset of putting others ahead of ourselves (**Philippians 2:3-8**).

B. We can never allow truth to be sacrificed on the altar of kindness or any other misunderstood principle (**Proverbs 23:23**).

1. There’s a point where kindness leaves the room (**Proverbs 28:4**).

2. There is a mentality Christians ought to have that we see in the Scriptures (**Psalms 119:128**, **I Corinthians 16:13**, **II Corinthians 10:3-5**, **Ephesians 6:10-17**, **Philippians 1:17**, **Philippians 1:27**, **II Thessalonians 2:15**, **I Timothy 1:18**, and **I Timothy 6:12**).

3. When certain occasions arise, we must stand (**Jude 1:3-4**).
4. Friendliness is not always able to be accomplished (**Proverbs 29:27** and **James 4:4**).
5. We cannot conform to get along (**Romans 12:1-2**).
6. Yet, there are times where compromising is following the truth. Think about how we must compromise in matters of liberty; especially for the weak among us (**Romans 14:1-15:9**, **I Corinthians 8:1-13**, **I Corinthians 10:25-33**, and **I Corinthians 12:14-27**).

C. So, let's consider a few examples (**I Corinthians 4:16**, **I Corinthians 11:1**, **Philippians 3:17**, and **James 5:10**).

1. What can we learn from how Jesus had compassion on about 5,000 people (**Matthew 14:21**), until they were just following for food (**John 6:1-72**)?
2. What can we learn from how an erring babe in Christ was treated (**Acts 8:13-24**)?
3. What can we learn from how Elymas was treated (**Acts 13:4-12**)?
4. What can we learn from how barbarous people showed kindness (**Acts 28:1-2**).
5. There are some examples put forth for us to follow (i.e. **Luke 10:25-37**), but then there are limitations on said examples (**II Thessalonians 3:10**).
6. We see good examples (**Acts 18:1-3**) that follow instructions of truth (**Romans 12:13** and **I Peter 4:9-10**), but we have to understand those have limits too (i.e. **II John 1:9-11**).
7. We cannot be so kind that we cause someone who is lost to think otherwise (**Jeremiah 23:14** and **Ezekiel 13:22-23**).

III. Conclusion: Maybe we could think about this from a perspective of love what is good and hate what is evil (**Romans 12:9**) while waiting to judge what we do not know (**Proverbs 18:13** and **John 7:24**). Therein we will find the right balance!