

The New Testament Church  
*The Righteous Will Shine #8 – Kindness*  
November 17, 2024 - Pastor Paul Jehle  
Titus 3:4-5; Hebrews 4:14-16

I The Righteous will Shine

- A. God strategically places us as a seed of the Kingdom where we will influence others
  - 1. Christian character outlasts and transcends politics, laws, wars and economics, etc.
  - 2. Wheat will outlast the tares (evil defeats itself) – our focus is Christ and His Character
- B. How will the character of Christ shine through the Believer to others?
  - 1. The character (image) of Christ is “carved” into our lives, often by “suffering”
  - 2. The revealing of the “sons of God” by fruit of the Spirit (Christ’s character seen in us)
    - a. Joy is a contentment and confidence in the midst of depression and anxiety
    - b. Peace is knowing “you have enough” when you have God – Jesus in your boat!
    - c. Self-control is “strongly mastering curbing and restraining oneself”
    - d. Longsuffering – “a disposition to bear injuries patiently” – forbearance
    - e. Faithfulness – “trust in the faithfulness of Christ to His Father” - fidelity

II Kindness – *hesed* (OT – lovingkindness) *chréstotés* (NT – “goodness, gentleness, uprightness”

- A. The Fruit of the Spirit – Christ’s character was a picture of God’s character of kindness
  - 1. The “works of the flesh” opposite of kindness include *selfish ambitions, envy*
    - a. Selfish – “zeal” – from “zeo – heat” – *the ambition to promote self (recognition)*
    - b. Envy - “phthonoi” – “grudge, spite, ill-will” – *personal reaction to another’s success*
  - 2. We are to cultivate kindness – “*Good will; benevolence... contributing to the happiness of others... supplying their wants or alleviating their distresses; benignity.*”
    - a. Benevolence - *good will; kindness; charitableness; love of mankind (compassion)*
    - b. Benignity – *actual goodness, promoting health and blessing of another (service)*
- B. Biblical illustrations of the kindness of Christ that is to shine through us – Titus 3:4-5
  - 1. Titus 3:4 – *when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared...*
  - 2. Titus 3:5 – *not by works of righteousness... but according to mercy...*
    - a. He has “crowned us with lovingkindness and compassion” – Psalm 103:4
    - b. Christ can sympathize with our weaknesses; shines through us – Hebrews 4:15
    - c. We add “to godliness, brotherly kindness... and then love” – 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:7
    - d. We “give no offense... by purity, knowledge, longsuffering, kindness” 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 6:3-7
    - e. Kindness is compassion but not mockery, sarcasm, “do to them what they did to me”
- C. So how do we learn to express Christ’s Kindness? (God gives common grace – kind to all)
  - 1. We must *come to Jesus and ask Him for His Kindness to shine through us!*
    - a. We must reckon ourselves dead to the desire to promote selfish pride
    - b. We must reckon dead all envy for another’s success (we need His humility)
      - 1. Ask Christ to help us bless those we compete against in some way
      - 2. Give grace to those who have wronged or are wronging us...
      - 3. This does not negate justice, but justice is only just when done in a righteous way
      - 4. True *compassion* through brokenness is what makes *servicing* so powerful
  - 2. Let us *thank Him* for providing *kindness* when we would have manifested revenge...
    - a. Psalm 31:21 – *His lovingkindness in a besieged city* – Absalom wanting to kill him
    - b. Luke 6:35 – *love your enemies, do good.. lend, hoping for nothing in return*