

Something Christ's Disciples "Must" Be

1. Kindness is an evidence of genuine Christianity.

Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone. 2 Tim. 2:23-24a (ESV)

Kindness given to all is a key "signpost" that recommends Christ to the world. Therefore it is a big deal.

The Apostle Paul to the Church in Thessalonica:

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 (NIV)

2. The root of the word "kindness" is "kin."

The assumption is that we naturally love and care for our "kin."
"Kindness" treats others like they are part of our family.

God loves us as His family! He showed us unlimited kindness!

God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:6-7 (NIV)

3. We all have an innate way of grasping how others want to be treated with kindness. It is called the "Golden Rule"

"Treat others the same way you want them to treat you."

Luke 6:31 (NASB)

Living by the Golden Rule is the 2nd great command of God.

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)

4. What Scripture says about Kindness

Kindness is a healing, strengthening force

An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up. Proverbs 12:25 (NIV)

Kindness brings honor to God

He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God. Proverbs 14:31 (NIV)

Kindness is a natural expression of "agape" love

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 1 Corinthians 13:4 (NIV)

Kindness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit's presence in a person

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against these things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Note what Jesus taught about people who claimed to represent Him but were actually deceivers: "By their fruit you will recognize them.

Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. Matthew 7:15-17 (NIV)

5. Like all virtues, kindness is a developed characteristic

Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

2 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV)

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:29-32 (NIV)*