

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### The Subject: Being Kind Is Not Nice

Ephesians 4:32 -- *be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

kind - Greek: chrestos - 'employ'; be useful and give what is needed

Philippians 4:19 -- *My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

need - Greek: chreia - "employment"; destitution

Kind is not niceness. The word nice is the French word *nisce*. It comes from *ne* (no) and *scire* (knowledge or science). Nice means to be ignorant or to have no knowledge. To "act nice" means to act as though you have no knowledge of "what's going on". When a person knows truth, and they "act nice", it is a pretense. Nice is not a Biblical attribute of Christians. Nice is what people become (when they "know" truth) in order to gain favor. It is hypocrisy for men who "know". To be "kind" means to meet the "need" of others. The words kind and need are in direct relationship to each other. The word kind and the word nice are direct opposites. The man who is kind tells all truth and sacrifices himself (Rom. 12:1) in order to meet the need (necessity) of others, whether it be monetary, emotional, or spiritual. A man who is unwilling to share his worldly goods or money with those who are in need does not possess the love of God (1 John 3:17). When Paul said, "My God shall supply all your need" (Philippians 4:19), the context is spiritual. He said, "I am instructed to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need (Philippians 4:12)." Then he said in the next verse, "I can do all (these) things through Christ which strengtheneth me (Phi. 4:13)". He was saying, "I can be hungry and suffer need as well as being able to abound and be full, through the kindness of God, which is Christ giving me the ability to endure all adversity." Kind and need are not defined by 20th century definition. We confuse "kind and nice" as well as "need and want". When we are kind we are tenderhearted (full of sympathy). Sympathy (*sumpathos*) is to suffer (*pathos*) together (*sum*). Kindness is not always accepted by the needy. Some people "need" rebuke for sin that they may repent. Others who are suffering and in anguish need someone to suffer with them (sympathy - compassion) and comfort them: Then others need our financial help. A man never needs our niceness, putting our approval on his sin. To be nice is usually to be untruthful in word and action. Nice is a diversionary tactic called "guile", which means "to live by trickery". Nice cares about self. Kind cares for others. Kind tells and does all truth. Nice covers it up (acting ignorant). Kind says and does truth, even when it is not wanted. When a mother tells her children to "act nice" she usually means for them to pretend and be hypocritical (Don't let these people "know" what you are really like). We are kind to our children when we make them eat right, sleep right, go to the doctor and the dentist. We meet their true needs, not their desires. When they suffer, we suffer with them. When they are hurt or injured we cease to be nice and we are only kind to them. Like our children, the world is not always ready and willing to accept "kindness". Jesus said, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you (Luke 6:26)." This is speaking of inoffensive "nice guys" who straddle the fence and are unwilling to take a hard line stance for truth (they are always "beating around the bush"). Jesus said that men will give an account for every idle word they speak (Matt. 12:36). This word idle (*argos*) means inactive or "unemployed". Idle words are unkind because they do not meet the need (becoming employed). Idle words are nice words. Jeremiah called these words lightness (easy or unimportant) and identified them with lies (Jer. 23:32). A kind man cares enough for others to deny himself, speaking truth, and supplying the need even at the cost of persecution and defamation of his character (Luke 6:22). If we are to be kind, we will tell all men all truth. There is nothing wrong with being nice (being ignorant). It is only when we "act nice" (pretending that we don't know) that we "lie in wait to deceive (Eph. 4:14)".

### GRACE AND TRUTH MINISTRIES

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Jim Brown - Bible Teacher • 824-8502

Radio Broadcast - Sat. Morn. 8am 1300 AM Dial WJQM  
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