



**DO JUSTICE**  
**LOVE KINDNESS**  
**WALK HUMBLLY**

*Micah 6:8*

## **UPCOMING DATES ...**

- 19 April – Good Friday
- 21 April – Easter Sunday
- 3 to 5 May – Women's Encounter

*For more information or to register for any of these events go to [inchurch.com.au](http://inchurch.com.au)*

## **2019 – CG Notes #8**

### **How to Remember Kindness – K I N D N E S S**

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#### **Key Verse:**

#### ***Micah 6:8 ESV***

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

Do justice – LOVE KINDNESS – walk humbly

An acrostic is a memory aid that is useful in keeping a list of ideas in mind. In our instance, it's a help in remembering some of the important motivators that turn our thoughts towards kindness.

The letters in the word **K - I - N - D - N - E - S - S** can be used to give ourselves 8 different reminders to help us in our pursuit of this virtue.

After this discussion, you might enjoy making your own acrostic on the same theme. What new thoughts could you contribute?

## **K - Keep it before me**

### **Php 4:8 ESV**

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

Think about these things! On Purpose!

I have to keep the concept of kindness consistently in front of me!

### **Verse 9 of Philippians 4 says:**

*“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”*

For me, kindness takes practice. I’ve got to work on this; I’ve got to keep this in front of me!

The Greek word means to exercise, to perform, to commit.

### **Php 3:17 ESV**

*Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.*

## **Discuss:**

The verses mentioned above seem to indicate the need for a continual refocussing of our attention upon that which is God-honouring. I relate this thought to my own experiences with a camera. Modern cameras all have “auto-focus” which virtually means, just point and shoot. Then there are finer cameras that utilise “manual focus” which is much more difficult to attain, but an essential skill for a photographer to master.

So it is with the believer – there is the constant need to refocus our attention and hone-in on the finer details such as Phil 4:8 suggests.

- Why do you think this is so? What happens in our hearts and minds that this exercise becomes necessary at times?

## **I- Intentional not just incidental**

Do intentional acts of kindness. Make a plan.

Have an idea, a design, a scheme, a strategy!

### **Titus 2:14 ESV**

*Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

## **NLT**

... Totally committed to doing good deeds.

## **Message**

... Making us a people he can be proud of, energetic in goodness.

This is intentional, zealous, energetic good deeds of kindness, not just, ‘well, maybe at some point I’ll get an opportunity!’

## Discuss:

- Clearly our hearts are open to the opportunity to express the kindness of God to others.
- What do you think it means to be “zealous for good works”? (Hint, read the other translations of Titus 2:14)
- What comes first: being zealous or being intentional?

## N- Needs

### **1 John 3:17 ESV**

*But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?*

Every need is an opportunity for KINDNESS!

### **2 Cor 8:14 ESV**

*Your abundance at the present time should supply their need...*

All that is required for kindness is a need.

### **Luke 3:11 NLT**

*John replied, “If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.”*

### **Jas 2:15-16 ESV**

*If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?*

## Discuss:

Need is all around us everyday. There are needs that are obvious, such as those mentioned above – food, clothing, shelter. What about needs that *are not as obvious*?

- Consider the hidden or silent needs of those around you – what are some of these types of needs?
- In what way could we open our hearts and help in these situations?

## D – Deeds

### **Pro 3:27-28 NLT**

*Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them. If you can help your neighbour now, don't say, “Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you.”*

We don't have to overthink this. Just do it.  
Deeds are how we get it done.

## The Message Bible

Never walk away from someone who deserves help; your hand is God's hand for that person. Don't tell your neighbour, “Maybe some other time,” or, “Try me tomorrow,” when the money's right there in your pocket.

We see the need we do the deed.

### **Heb 13:16 NLT**

And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need.

My modern "JH translation":

"And don't forget to do the deed when you see the need!"

### **N - Not my default**

#### **Rom 7:18 GNB**

*I know that good does not live in me—that is, in my human nature. For even though the desire to do good is in me, I am not able to do it.*

My default is rarely kindness and its mostly selfishness. But by God's grace I am not who I used to be! And the Holy Spirit has given me a new nature! God's grace is not only extended to me – God's grace is supposed to be extended *through me*.

### **Discuss:**

It seems natural for some people to be gracious and kind to others – all the time! Then there's the rest of us who, if honest would say "it's not my default setting."

- How do we learn to *lean in* to the new nature of Jesus Christ within?

### **E - Eyes to see**

It's embarrassing to admit, but I know that I'm the guy who can walk right past a person in need and never see who is there before me.

Lord, give me eyes to see.

Make me aware.

Help me to 'have a clue'.

Help me to see the need.

#### **John 12:40 MSG**

*Their eyes are blinded, their hearts are hardened, So that they wouldn't see with their eyes and perceive with their hearts, And turn to me, God, so I could heal them.*

*The condition of our heart is directly related to our ability to see.*

If our hearts are hard we will be blind like the Pharisees.

#### **Pro 4:23 NKJV**

*Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.*

### **NLT**

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

### **S - Sincere** with no other motive than to show Gods love.

Whether I get the opportunity to share the Gospel or not I still want to show kindness.

### **1 Tim 1:5 NKJV**

*Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith.*

### **1 Peter 1:22 NLT**

*You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.*

### **The Message Bible**

Love one another as if your lives depended on it.

### **Discuss:**

It's our genuine desire that the gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ is delivered to everyone, everywhere. This is our mission. It's our hope that acts of kindness will open hearts and present us with further opportunities. However, we know that kindness must be totally sincere with no other motive – even the best motive of all.

This means then, that we must learn to depend upon the Holy Spirit and ask Him to show us when to act and with whom. Then we need to depend upon and Him to arrange the opportunities to speak about Him.

- How do we do this?
- What has been your experience in learning to depend upon the Holy Spirit?

### **S –Spirit, kindness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit**

It may not be my natural default but it sure is His!

### **Gal 5:22 ESV**

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

### **Joh 15:5 ESV**

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

This pursuit of kindness that we are all on this year is the result of abiding in Jesus and producing the fruit of the Holy Spirit!

Seeking kindness for others is going to deepen your walk with God and strengthen your life in the Holy Spirit!

Review the acrostic  
Keep it before me  
Intentional not just incidental  
Needs  
Deeds  
Not my default  
Eyes to see  
Sincere with no other motive  
Spirit – kindness, the fruit of the Holy Spirit

Now, your turn. What words could you use to remember kindness?