

GOD IS _____

Part 16: God is Kind

Todd King, Lead Pastor
June 21 & 22, 2014

God is kind.

Anthropomorphic

A fancy, long word that describes what we do when we make God in our image.

Is the unkindness or cruelty we assign God actually the unkindness and cruelty of humanity?

God's kindness is not dependent on our behavior.

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." —*Titus 3:4-5*

God is kind because God is kind, not because we are good.

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ 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 2:4-7*

God's kindness is merciful; which is intended to lead us to repentance.

"But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us?" —*Romans 3:5*

Our unrighteousness or sin does not force his kindness.

Paul declares, "For the wages of the sin is death," —*Romans 6:23*

And from Romans 2:4, "God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance"

- The reason God is kind is not because he owes you.
- The reason God is kind is not because you're entitled to it.
- The reason God is kind and merciful is not merely because this is an intrinsic part of his character.

(Continues on back)

God's kindness is very intentional.

Biblical kindness is the favor one shows towards an enemy.

“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.” —*Colossians 1:21-23*

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”. —*Romans 5:8*

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons (and daughters) of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.” —*Luke 6:35*

Practical Next Steps

1. Look for God’s kindness.

2. Imitate God’s kindness

- “A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.”
— *Proverbs 11:17*
- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. —*Galatians 5:22-23*
- “Love is patient, love is kind...” —*1 Corinthians 13:5*

Small Group Questions

- 1) What is the kindest thing that another person has ever done for you? Tell why you think that gesture was kind.
- 2) Kindness is a quality that seems to be “slipping” in our culture. Why do you think that is?
- 3) God is not bi-polar, yet maybe people oscillate between him being a kind God and a cruel God. Talk about that...
- 4) We learned this weekend that God’s kindness is not based on our performance. How does that connect with you? Do you think God is kind to you? Why or why not?
- 5) Romans 2 states “God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance”. Wrestle with that statement. How have you seen that played out
- 6) Pray for one another that you may know and experience the kindness of God this week.

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.