

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
2080 West Grand Blvd.
Detroit, Michigan 48208
Nathan Johnson, D.D., Senior Pastor

Lesson 6: Sharing God's Kindness¹

Goal: *Build Authentic Relationships by Reestablishing the Art of "One Anothering."*

Objective: *Provide Scriptural support for sharing God's Kindness with Others*

Overview:

In the world we live in today, people can be very cold and estranged. Scripture teaches us, "When Jesus saw the crowd; he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.'" (Matthew 9:36-38 NLT) People around us need to be shown loving-kindness.

Jesus taught us to pray and be guided by the Spirit of God to fulfill His purpose as workers in His fields. Acts of kindness can be perceived as nonverbal demonstrations of God's love for us and toward others. These acts provide an opportunity to engage people who are helpless and confused by the trials of life. Through loving kindness, they experience the comfort and assurance of God's care for them.

Sometimes when we as Christians attempt to show God's love through acts of kindness, we may be initially rejected. However, we must be diligent in seeking ways to be kind in order to see the miracle of one anothering unfold.²

Loving kindness is not just a New Testament concept. It is reflected in God's character and His covenant love (*Hesed*) in all of Scripture. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word, *Hesed*, is used. It denotes a gracious element in human relationships. It mainly describes exceptional acts of one human being to another to meet an extreme need outside of the normal run of perceived duty which arises from one's own personal affection or goodness. God in His grace and mercy shows such kindness to mankind.³ If we have experienced God's loving-kindness, we can demonstrate it to others.

As a body of believers we are called to a higher standard. "Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is

¹ Jacobsen, W., & Jacobsen, C. *Authentic Relationships: Discover the lost art of "one anothering"*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, (2003). Print.

² Pg 73 , Jacobsen, W., & Jacobsen, C. *Authentic Relationships: Discover the lost art of "one anothering"*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, (2003). Print.

³ Vanhoozer, K. J., Bartholomew, C. G., Treier, D. J., & Wright, N. T. (2005). *Dictionary for theological interpretation of the Bible* (3). London; Grand Rapids, MI.: SPCK; Baker Academic.

what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it. (1 Peter 3:9 NLT) When we share love and kindness with others, we become *doers* of the Word of God. (*James 1:22*) As we trust God to take care of our needs, we are liberated to more freely share what we have with others. There is a great joy we can experience by giving. God measures our love for Him by the way we treat others.

"For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." (Matthew 25:35-36, 40)

Discussion Point #1

How did Jesus respond when Peter rejected having his feet washed?

Jesus humbled Himself by modeling the low rank of a servant in order to teach His followers the significance of humility. This could be considered an example of loving kindness.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will. "No," Peter protested, "You will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." (John 13:6-8 NLT)

Discussion Point #2

How did Paul understand and show that God's gifts are to be administered with an "attitude of kindness" in his letters to the Romans 12, and Ephesians 4?

God intended for His Gifts of the Holy Spirit to be administered by people who serve Him with an *attitude of kindness*. Our acts of *kindness* should line up with God's will and purpose for our lives. We cannot be the vessels He intends without extending His love to others.

"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well... If your gift is serving others, serve them well.... And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly." (Romans 12:6,7,8)

"Be kind and compassionate to one another." (Ephesian 4:32)

Discussion Point #3

How does God acknowledge our sacrificial services toward others?

When we submit ourselves first to God, our relationship with Him is reflected in our fellowship and communion with each other. We have been reconciled to God through the sacrificial life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus came as the Son of God to pay our sin debt and free us from the enslavement of sin, to reconcile us with the Father, to pave the way for

salvation, and to grant His children eternal life in the kingdom of God. He taught us how to strengthen and grow in relationship with the Father and with one another.

*“But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”
Hebrew 13:16 ESV*

Biblical Exercise:

In 2012, we have been encouraged by our Pastor, to bring twelve individuals to church. As you Identify, Pray, Witness and Invite (IPWI) people to experience a closer relationship with God, add to your engagement an act of kindness!

Monthly Biblical Lessons

Month	Year	Monthly Biblical Lessons
October	2011	<i>Introduction to Authentic Relationships</i>
November	2011	<i>Loving Others Like God Loves You</i>
December	2011	<i>A Soft Place to Fall</i>
January	2012	<i>It's Not All About You</i>
February	2012	<i>Initial Contact</i>
March	2012	<i>Sharing God's Kindness</i>