

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Kindness is a virtue not often enough considered, but it remains central to what Christianity is all about. The reason for this is stated clearly at the end of this passage: Kindness is one of the purest forms of the imitation of God. ... People enslaved to anger and malice may think they are 'free' to 'be themselves', but they are in bondage. If we are marked by the Spirit's personal presence living in us, think how sad it makes the Spirit if we behave in ways which don't reflect the life and love of God (N.T. Wright 2002).

These are the things you should do: Speak the truth to each other; make honest, just, and peaceable decisions within your gates. Don't plan evil for each other. Don't adore swearing falsely, for all of these are things that I hate, says the Lord. Zechariah 8:16-17

Put yourself completely under the influence of Jesus, so He may think His thoughts in your mind, and do His work through your hands—for you will be all-powerful with Him to strengthen you (Mother Teresa, 1996).

Jesus came to minister to the deep needs of our lives as we extend the same generosity to others. We're kind because He is kind. We're honest, because He is honest with us. We love one another because we are a part of one body—Jesus Christ.

To whom will you be especially kind this week?

What will you say and do—to build community?

Next week: *Ephesians 6:10-20*

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August 26, 2018 The Essence of God's Kingdom

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 18* (*What is God saying to you?*)

Monday: *John 14:1-14*

Tuesday: *Matthew 11:1-15*

Wednesday: *Hebrews 10:19-25*

Thursday: *Matthew 8:18-27*

Friday: *Luke 5:27-39*

Saturday: *John 12:20-36*

Almighty God, as You sent Jesus to be for us Light and Truth,
send now Your Spirit upon us to grant us grace and strength to
follow in His footsteps this day and always. In the powerful
Name of Your Son, our Savior Jesus, Amen.

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