

HOW WE SHOULD TREAT OTHERS

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

1 Corinthians 13:4 (NIV)

❖ Choosing to be PATIENT with OTHERS:

We have proved ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, our sincere love, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 6:6 (NLT)

1. Being patient is directly correlated with the HEART of GOD.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

2. Being longsuffering toward others will produce MATURITY in our faith.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

3. To be patient with others literally is to have a SHORT MEMORY out of love.

Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

C.S. Lewis

❖ Choosing to be KIND to OTHERS:

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

1. The Greek word used for kindness also means to be GENTLE and to be USEFUL.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by (good) deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

James 3:13 (NIV)

2. The example we have for being kind comes from GOD'S KINDNESS to us.

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 2:6-7 (NIV)

3. The Bible states that we should WEAR kindness like a piece of CLOTHING.

Since God chose you to be the holy people whom he loves, you must clothe yourselves with...kindness.

Colossians 3:12 (NLT)

"If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives: Be kind anyway...the good you do today, will often be forgotten by tomorrow: Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough: Give your best anyway."

Mother Theresa

- ❖ Choosing to be GOOD toward OTHERS:

I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

Romans 15:14 (NIV)

1. The word goodness used here is also translated as GENEROSITY toward others.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)...

Ephesians 5:8-9 (NIV)

2. Our goodness is to be a reflection of God who is always GIVING and FORGIVING.

And who could ever give God so much that He would have to pay it back? ³⁶ For everything comes from Him; everything exists by His power and is intended for His glory. To Him be glory evermore. Amen.

Romans 11:35-36 (NLT)

3. To produce the fruit of goodness means to do what is RIGHT as our witness.

To this end also we pray for you always that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill (your) every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power; ¹² We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NASB)