



## Chapter Two — *Love Is Kind* (1 Corinthians 13:4)

“Love is patient, love is kind...” — 1 Corinthians 13:4

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### **Big Idea**

Kindness is love in action.

While patience restrains us from reacting harshly, kindness moves us toward others with intentional care. Biblical kindness is not merely being pleasant—it is the Spirit-empowered decision to actively do good for someone else, often at personal cost.

Kindness is part of the fruit of the Spirit. That means it doesn’t originate in our personality or willpower alone—it flows from God working in us. God models this kindness continually: He sent Jesus to save us, sustains us daily, and patiently shapes us into Christlikeness.

Patience and kindness are inseparable. Patience gives people space. Kindness steps into that space to help.

The Greek word Paul uses here carries the idea of being *useful* or *beneficial*. In other words, kindness is practical. It doesn’t stop at warm feelings or polite words—it looks for tangible ways to make someone else’s life better.

Jesus embodied this kind of love. He touched the untouchable, fed the hungry, comforted the grieving, restored the fallen, and even showed kindness while suffering on the cross. His life reminds us that real kindness is often inconvenient, sacrificial, and deeply powerful.



## Practical Takeaways

- Kindness moves beyond intention to action.
- Kindness looks for ways to be helpful, not just harmless.
- Kindness often begins with interrupting your own agenda.
- Kindness starts closest to home.
- Kindness toward difficult people reflects the heart of Christ.
- Remembering God's kindness toward you fuels kindness toward others.

Growing in kindness may involve:

- Allowing God's Spirit to guide your responses
- Being willing to be interrupted for love's sake
- Looking for small, practical ways to serve
- Reflecting often on how God has treated you with mercy and grace

Every act of kindness creates ripples that extend far beyond what we can see.

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## Discussion Questions

1. How does taking the initiative to be kind complete what patience starts?
2. Where would we be if God were only patient and not kind toward us?
3. Can you think of some biblical examples of kindness?
4. Can you think of an example of kindness received and given in your family life?
5. Who is one person God may be prompting you to show practical kindness to this week—and what specific action could you take?
6. What usually prevents you from being kind (busyness, fatigue, past hurt, distractions), and how can you invite God into that struggle?