

Life Changing Ministries at New Life

Matthew 28:20

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.
(Matt 28:20 NLT)

Because we want to change lives at New Life, we pursue the power of kindness in our lives, family, and ministries.

The Great Commission means Christ has commanded you to go and change lives. I know that intimidates many of you. But I want to first remind you of two powerful, life changing ministries that are available to many of you, and I don't want you to overlook them.

A) The life-changing power of kindness

Look at this powerful statement about changing lives in Romans. **"The kindness of God leads you to repentance"** (Rom 2:4 NASB). The Greek word translated repentance literally means a change of mind. It means your life has radically and permanently changed. When God wants to help someone change, what does He do? He reveals His kindness to them.

"Kindness is the INITIATING part of Christian love that always enjoys serving the needs of others. In fact, the Greek verb used in the NT for being kind is related to the Greek adjective *chrestos*, which means "being useful." Christian kindness is being useful and a blessing to others by meeting their practical needs."

Let me give you a very good Great Commission verse. **"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds"** (Heb 10:24 NIV). What can we do to spur others toward love and good deeds? It's kindness. You being kind to them will spur them on to be kind to others.

Kind people will change many more lives than merely knowledgeable people.

B) The power of kindness in your family

The greatest influence in our lives happens through our spouses. And we are the greatest influence on our children (Eph 6:4).

And again, this can feel intimidating. **"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord"** (Eph 6:4 NIV). How do we accomplish such a huge and difficult task?

Let me remind you again of the power of kindness. Being kind to your children teaches them the most important thing about God.

What does Proverbs say? **"What is desirable in a man is his kindness"** (Prov 19:22 NASB). Parents, it is your kindness that your children crave. It is your kindness that your children will always remember. And it is your kindness that will be contagious for them. They will grow up wanting to be kind to people just like you.

Which is why you must find ways to be kind to people outside of your own family and be useful to them and serve others. This is one of the most

important things you can do parents, to raise your children to embrace and enjoy Authentic Christianity.

C) The power of kindness in the church

The NT makes it clear that a priority of our love and service is to be directed to people in our church.

"Be devoted to one another in love" (Rom 12:10 NIV).

"Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ" (Gal 6:2 NLT).

"Encourage each other and build each other up" (1 Thess 5:11 NLT).

"Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love" (Eph 4:2).

"Open your homes to each other, without complaining" (1 Pet 4:9 NLT).

D) The need for kindness in New Life ministries

Life Group is where we hope to help you practically obey all of those "one another" commands in Scripture. To pursue New Life's mission of: "Joyfully serving Christ with our best friends."

We want our LG's to become more action-oriented instead of just meeting oriented. LG's are not intended to primarily be Bible studies.

What is the most necessary attribute of a Life Group leader, Barnabas Group leader, or Renew Ministry Helper? Kindness.

Improving our ability to change lives at New Life will be a focus for the next year. Improve and multiply our Life Groups and Barnabas Groups. Finishing and providing Renew Ministry training.

Next week, you will all receive a Spiritual Health Survey.

Discussion ?'s

- 1) What is intimidating about Christ's desire to change people's lives through you?
- 2) What does kindness mean? When have you experienced kindness from someone in a memorable way? Why is kindness powerful?
- 3) What does kindness look like in our marriages and parenting? Why is it important to be a family who is serving and being kind to others outside of your family?
- 4) Why does Pastor Kurt like to say, "I hope someone at New Life sins against you"?
- 5) How can your Life Group be more action-oriented?
- 6) What was most meaningful to you about the Sunday message?