

THE KINDNESS THAT IMITATES GOD HIMSELF

May 6, 2012 Ephesians 4:29-5:2 by Bob Branch
Discovering Our Inheritance in Christ, Part 15

MAIN IDEA: How do you keep anger in check? You aim at kindness God-style... treating others the way He treats you.

TODAY: Not That, But This.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **Ephesians 4:29**

WORD POWER: CONTROL your words (Not this)

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. **Proverbs 12:18**

Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin. **Proverbs 13:3**

WORD POWER: UTILIZE your words (But that)

Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up. **Proverbs 12:25**

A person finds joy in giving an apt reply—and how good is a timely word! **Proverbs 15:23**

Helpful words.

Words that build up others.

Words in sync with what they need to hear

Giving grace to the hearer

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **Ephesians 4:30**

MOTIVE: What response does this get from God?

The Spirit is a person, not a phantom, or thing! (*quenched* 1 Thess. 5:19; *fellowships*; 2 Cor. 13:14; *speaks* Acts 13:2)

EXERCISE: Smile or Frown?

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **Ephesians 4:31-32**

“No” to MEANESS. (Not this)

- ◆ Bitterness
- ◆ Rage
- ◆ Anger
- ◆ Clamor/Brawling
- ◆ Talking trash/down on another

“Yes” to KINDNESS. (But that)

Kind:

“...God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance”
Romans 2:4 (Gal. 5:22)

Compassionate:

“Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes”
Matthew 20:34

Forgiving:

[Jesus said] Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you? **Matthew 18:33**

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.
Matthew 6:14-15

¹ Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **Eph. 5:1-2**

MODEL: RECEIVE Love & Grace/ GIVE Love & Grace

God is this way to you!

1. You are dearly loved by him. Follow that example. (John 3:16)
2. Loved to live loving.
3. Love gives itself.
4. Sacrificial love is a fragrant offering to God.