

S.O.H.L.

(04/20/09)

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

Be Kind To All

One day while delivering the mail from house to house, I came upon this yard and noticed a newspaper was thrown near the porch. In this particular yard, the mail box was attached to the house. As I continued walking towards the mailbox, I picked up the newspaper and placed it in the mailbox with the mail. In this house was an elderly lady who came outside the front door to get her mail and she said thank you so much. This elderly lady was barely able to walk, but I noticed how I made it easier for her despite her physical status. We conversed for a few minutes. She told me how challenging it was to walk so far. She was frail and suffered from a disease that made it difficult for her to walk. She also told me how lonely it could be with no one to talk to. She told me her neighbors next door to her were not friendly and they would barely speak.

My brothers and sisters, do you mistreat people because they offended you in some manner? Do you only speak to people that you know? Do you only speak to a certain race or gender? Do you go out of your way for certain people only? Do you take the extra initiative to be there for another? There are Christians who design "clicks" in the church. Only associating with certain people. Not taking the time to introduce themselves to a brother or sister who is not a member of their ministry. Are you a member of one of those clicks? To justify their actions their excuse would possibly be, "those are my friends and we have something in common." My brothers and sisters, God requires us to "Be Kind To All".

Genuine kindness is our response to God's love. **Romans 12:14** tells us that if someone mistreats you because you are a Christian, don't curse him; pray that God will bless him. When others are happy, be happy with them. If they are sad, share their sorrow.

Kindness is one of the characteristics of God's people. **Colossians 3:12** NLT – (12) Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Showing undeserved kindness imitates God's character. **Luke 6:35** NLT – (35) "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.

Whether someone hurts your feelings or not, we are to demonstrate love, compassion and kindness. We are not to put on a mask, but to be genuine just as Christ is. My brothers and sisters, "Be Kind To All."

SCRIPTURE READING : 1 JOHN 4:7

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Blowing out someone else's candle doesn't make yours brighter.

April 1, 2009

