

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Defining Our Culture

What are some one-word character descriptions of our nation's current culture?

- *What do you think it was like in the Roman province of Galatia?*
- *What was Paul writing to the Galatian churches about?*

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Roman culture in Galatia was a pagan pantheon of many gods...

- *Into which came Judaism & Christianity*

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Paul wrote because the Galatians had similar problems to the Corinthian church

- *Divisions in the body of Christ, from internal & external sources*
- *Paul is calling them both back to the fullness of Christ's oneness*

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Galatian culture was divided, and our U.S. culture is divided

- *The call of the church is the same then & now*
- *Not from division, but to the fullness & security of who Christ IS.*

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The Corinthian church was dividing over pride & doctrines

- *Very much like denominationalism today*

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The Galatian church was being divided by Jewish legalism

- *That salvation is based on what you are required to do*
- *In their case, obey the law of Moses*
- *In this divisiveness people were being unkind, unlike Christ*

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John 16:13-14, "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth... He will glorify Me, for **He will take of what is Mine** and declare it to you."

- *The Holy Spirit reveals **who Jesus is**, to us & in us.*

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Galatians 5:22-23, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faith/fulness, gentleness, self-control.

- ***The Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit are kind***

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Kindness resides in the heart, and is demonstrated with words & actions

- ***Matthew 12:33-35***, "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for **a tree is known by its fruit...** For out of **the abundance of the heart** the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things"

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Kindness shines clearly in the midst of it's absence.

- *Every fruit of the Spirit counters the enemy's effort to steal, kill & destroy it*

N.T. Kindness = "Useful, excellent character... with gentleness"

- *To handle with care, good will & understanding*

The world we live in is often unkind & indifferent

- **Proverbs 19:22**, "What is desired in a man is **kindness**"
- **Proverbs 31:26**, She opens her mouth with wisdom, and **the teaching of kindness** is on her tongue.

Luke 6:35, "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For **He is kind to the unthankful and evil.**"

- *Is there anyone we would be unkind to?*
- *Will we be kind **to the unthankful and evil**?*

Romans 2:4, Or do you despise the riches of **His kindness**, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that **God's kindness** is intended to lead you to repentance?

I Corinthians 13:4, Love is **patient and kind**; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

II Corinthians 6:6-10, We give no offense in anything, **that our ministry may not be blamed**. But in all things we commend **ourselves as ministers of God**: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, **by kindness**, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Ephesians 2:7, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in **His kindness toward us** in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:32, And **be kind to one another**, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Colossians 3:12-14, Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on** tender mercies, **kindness**, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

- *We perfect it among each other, so we're prepared **to extend it to everyone***
- *My opportunity last week*

Titus 3:3-5, For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when **the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared**, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit

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*Kindness is one of the **most effective influences** we have to win people with*

- *A kind person is equipped to give kindness*
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*We live in a world where parts of the church have been more influenced by the culture, than being an influence in the midst of it. (**Matt. 13:33**)*

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A basic rule of all conflict is, do not let the enemy dictate the terms or the field

- *Jesus also said, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*
 - *God doesn't play defence*
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***Galatians 5:22**, The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith/fulness, gentleness, self-control.*

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In a world drowning in hate, sorrow, fear & anxiety...

- *Always be ready to throw them a lifeline of Love, Joy, Peace, Patience & Kindness*