

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, SMALL GROUPS

What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”

2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don’t let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share

[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member*]

For further Application, Meditation and Conversation on today’s text:

Date: 10/10/2021 – “Love is Kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4b)

1. Why was it important for Paul to say “love is ... kind” in the Corinthian context? Why is this important in our context?
2. How would you differentiate patience and kindness in v. 4? How do other passages that link patience and kindness with love and the Holy Spirit give us insight on how these go together (see 2 Corinthians 6:6, Galatians 5:22, compare “gentleness” in Ephesians 4:2-3)?
3. How does the common definition of “kindness” differ from the biblical definition? How do we see kindness through God in Christ and why is that important?
4. Why is it important to “put on ... compassionate hearts” before kindness (and patience) and to put on love over all in Colossians 3:12-14? How might that relate to those who do acts of kindness in 1 Corinthians 13:3 but there’s no heart of love behind it? Is it biblical love in 13:4 to do acts of kindness, only as a choice of the will, without feelings or hearts of compassion? Why or why not?
5. How does 2 Samuel 9 (the story of David and Mephibosheth) help you understand what it means to “show the kindness of God” to someone (v. 3)?
6. How does God’s love and kindness for us in the gospel show us how to fulfill the command “Be kind to one another”, based on Ephesians 4:31-32?
7. What is most compelling to you about the kindness of Jesus that we see recorded as He interacted with people? What is most convicting to you that you need to work on?