

SWEET SUMMER – LIFE FORMED BY THE SPIRIT “KINDNESS”

SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 18; ROMANS 2;
EPHESIANS 2 & 4; MATTHEW 25

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INTRODUCTION

- Our worth exists because we are made in the image of God.
- Origin of kindness – Genesis 1:26a-27 NLT, “²⁶Then God said, ‘Let us make human beings in our image’...²⁷So God created human beings in his own image...”

I. UNDESERVED

- 1 Samuel 18:1-5 NLT
- David is a threat to Jonathan’s apparent succession to the throne, but Jonathan looks past that and is kind.
- 1 Samuel 20 – Jonathan protects David at his own expense.
- The kindness of Jonathan is a picture of God’s kindness to us.
 - True kindness retains a strength that puts others first, sometimes at a personal loss.
- The story of Jesus is a story of kindness through strength to give what we don’t deserve at a great cost to Himself.
- Kindness is not weakness; it is strength under the leadership of mercy.
- Is there somewhere rivalry has replaced kindness in me?

II. THE KINDNESS OF GOD

- Romans 2:4-8 NLT, “⁴Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?...”

- We do not become kind by trying harder to be nice.
 - We become kind as we abide in Jesus and are formed by the kindness God has shown us.
- The turning point of our story was not our goodness toward God—it was God’s kindness toward us.
- Ephesians 2:4-8 NLT, “⁴But God is so rich in mercy...⁶For he raised us from the dead along with Christ...⁸God saved you by his grace...And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.”
- Ephesians 2:9-10 NLT, “...¹⁰For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”
- In a harsh world, kindness becomes a witness to another kingdom.

III. THE LEAST OF THESE

- Kindness is mercy in motion.
- Matthew 25:34-40 NLT
- Who are “the least of these” in our everyday lives?
- If my love for people is shallow, can I honestly claim that my love for God is deep?

CLOSE

- Ephesians 4:21-24 NLT, “...²²throw off your old sinful nature...²⁴Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.”
- Kindness means our strength, truth, convictions, and responses are governed by the mercy of Jesus.
- Have we *rooted* ourselves in a way that we are compelled to kindness?