

Kindness, Compassion and Hospitality

Matthew 5:42-Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. (KJV)

Being kind and hospitable is a real way to the serve the Lord God in active love. Humans are created in the image and likeness of God and worthy of respect (Gen. 1:26) Believers have multiple opportunities in a lifetime to be kind and hospitable. Parish churches have constant opportunities to demonstrate hospitality to strangers. Caring for and being hospitable to strangers is related to caring for Christ. (Mt. 25;31-46)

Mark 9:41- For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward. (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures include numerous references to kindness and hospitality. Believers learn and witness in God's Holy Church the practice of being hospitable. Individuals are welcomed into parish churches seeking the salvation of their souls. God's love is manifested through the acts of caring parishioners to new visitors. Healthy parishes establish a strong reputation of being hospitable to strangers.

2 Corinthians 9:7- Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (KJV)

The Lord God knows the thinking and motivation active in each human heart. The actions of a believer grow out of the content in the individual human heart. Acts of genuine compassion stem from the love present and nourished in the heart. God opens the hearts of compassionate believers to address needs that arise. Communities come together and demonstrate residual love in times of tragedies.

Galatians 3:28- There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the bond bringing believers together to act in times of great need. Resources become available and are multiplied through the power of Jesus Christ. Active prayer unleashes forces hitherto latent and previously not considered. The effective power of prayer has been well-described and readily documented. Readers of the Holy Scriptures find examples of the documented value of prayer.

Hebrews 13:2-Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (KJV)

The Lord God is well-aware when believers act out of genuine love toward others. Interactions formed out of love for the Lord multiply in benefits for those involved. Believers acting out of love and compassion ignite love in human relationships. Kindness, compassion and hospitality can be expressed by actions without words. Being helpful to strangers can have greater results than ever was anticipated.

Transfer of the Relics of Archdeacon Stephen. August 2/16, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

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