

# Kindness is not a sign of weakness!

*“And be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving of one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32*

If you grew up in the church, you’ve probably mistaken this for the ‘golden rule’ the whole do unto others thing.

**The bible tells us that we should be kind and compassionate to each other!**

But when I read this I get a awkward picture in my head that a Christian has to be some sort of wuss. Which isn’t the case.

**We don’t have to look far for examples of Jesus showing kindness** in the bible in **John 8:1-11** we read.

*Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and He sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”*

*They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman standing there.*

*Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”*

**So the big concept for us is we have a choice!**

We can see a need and ignore it, or we can see and respond. As Christians we should respond. And respond using the 4 example that Jesus did in the story!

## **1. Jesus ACCEPTED her**

**We should ACCEPT others like Jesus accepts us!**

There’s a difference between acceptance and approval. Jesus wasn’t approving her actions; he was accepting her where she was.

*Accept one another just as Christ accepted you. Romans 15:7*

## **2. Jesus VALUED her**

Jesus saw the VALUE in this woman – she was scorned by others, rejected by everyone else. He stood there with her because he valued her.

**We need to value others!**

We should stand by those who is standing alone. Jesus stops his busyness, to value this woman, and that's a model of kindness for us as well.

## **3. Jesus FORGAVE her**

In the story Jesus stands up, He makes eye contact with her and says, *“Woman, where are the accusers? Has no one condemned you?”* *“No one, sir,”* she said *“Then neither do I condemn you,”* Jesus declared.

**We should be quick to forgive...**

God forgave our sins and sets us free.

In **Isaiah 43:25** it says, *I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you.*

**How freely do you forgive other people?**

Think about when someone offended you ... was it easy for you to forgive them?

## **4. Jesus BELIEVED in her**

Jesus ends the conversation letting this woman know he believes in her.

*“Go now and leave your life of sin.”*

**We need to be sure to not see all the problems in people but look for their potential.**

Believe in people just as Christ believes in us.

I love the fact that Jesus doesn't bring up her wrongdoing - He totally focuses on the future of this woman! No lecture just go now, and leave your life of sin.

**This is a picture of love, we are forgiven.....now let's start acting like it.**

So in this story we learn a lot more about love.

**We learn that kindness is one of the greatest expressions of love.**

**So as we take communion tonight there are 2 practical things we can do to become more kind towards others by following the example of Jesus....**

**1. Learn to see peoples hurts – have eyes like Jesus.**

Jesus see's past the outside of people (*I'm sure people were just as annoying in his day*)

He also see's the potential in people, where they can be not where they're at.

**2. Be quick to respond to people with forgiveness, valuing them, accepting them and believing in them.**

As we take communion together lets pray that God will help us show kindness to people this week, not just to people who are easy to be kind to like our friends.

But it's usually the ones that are difficult that need our kindness the most! Also if there's any sin in your life that you need to give to God lets do that, accept His forgiveness and kindness towards you.

**And lust like Jesus said in the story go and leave your life of sin!**