

The Need For Kindness

Sunday PM 11/03/19

Introduction:

How many of you have heard of Preston Brooks?

Preston Smith Brooks (August 5, 1819 - January 27, 1857) was an American politician and Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from South Carolina, serving from 1853 until his resignation in July 1856 and again from August 1856 until his death.... Brooks, a Democrat, was a strong advocate of slavery and states' rights. He is most remembered for his May 22, 1856, attack upon abolitionist and Republican Senator Charles Sumner, whom he beat nearly to death; Brooks beat Sumner with a cane on the floor of the United States Senate in retaliation for an anti-slavery speech in which Sumner verbally attacked Brooks's second cousin,[1][2] South Carolina Senator Andrew Butler. Brooks's action received "widespread adoration in South Carolina and other Southern states"[3]-the city of Brooksville, Florida named itself for him immediately afterwards[3]-and abhorrence in the North.... Sumner was seriously injured by Brooks's beating, and was unable to resume his seat in the Senate for three years, though eventually he recovered and resumed his Senate career.[6] The Massachusetts Legislature reelected Sumner in 1856, "and let his seat sit vacant during his absence as a reminder of Southern brutality".[7]

How many of us look at our culture today, our politics, and think we are more polarized today than ever before? The fact is we are not facing any thing new. About a month ago Ellen DeGeneres found herself in a controversy. She attended a Dallas Cowboys football game as a guest of Jerry Jones, the owner of the team. A picture was taken with her sitting by former President George W. Bush. She was blasted by the LGBT community and the far left for being with someone who is her opposite politically and morally.

Ellen went on her show and made the following statements:

"I'm friends with George Bush. In fact, I'm friends with a lot of people who don't share the same beliefs that I have...but just because I don't agree with someone on everything doesn't mean that I'm not going to be friends with them."... "I'm friends with George Bush. In fact, I'm friends with a lot of people who don't share the same beliefs that I have...but just because I don't agree with someone on everything doesn't mean that I'm not going to be friends with them."... "When I say, 'Be kind to one another', I don't mean only the people who think the same way that you do. I mean be kind to everyone. Doesn't matter."

The fact is kindness is important and part of being a Christian.

I) What Kindness is not and what it is.

A) Kindness is not.

1. Accepting ungodly actions - many in the world want us as Christians to not only tolerate what the Bible condemns but accept it as being ok. *Ephesians 5.11.*
2. Enabling sin - actually helping people to commit the sin the Bible condemns.
3. Definitions one and 2 are not kind because it actually hurts the people engaged in the sin. I am not being kind if I go out and buy alcohol for an alcoholic.
4. Being mean spirited - one can oppose sin without being vile and hateful. The fact is religious and non-religious people can be mean spirited.
 - a. We are told to use our words carefully. *Colossians 4.6.*

- b. We are told to have the proper attitude at all times, *2 Timothy 1.7*
- c. Being mean spirited is often due to having a weak argument.

B) Kindness is...

1. Part of the Fruit of the Spirit, *Galatians 5.22*.
 - a. Means - gentleness, often think of compassion, sympathy, thoughtfulness, and being considerate.
 - b. Connected to mercy and love. *Psalms 117.2*; often translated as goodness, *Proverbs 20.6*.
2. Tends to emphasize the heart of the person.
3. *Matthew 11.30* "my yoke is easy" - kind and gentle.
4. "Goodness" *Romans 2.4*. Treating others as God has treated us.

II) To Be Kind

A) Be respectful, *1 Peter 2.17*.

1. Have concern for their soul. Don't get so focused on winning the argument that you lose their soul. *1 Corinthians 9.19-23*.
2. See this when dealing with eating of meats sacrificed to idols. *1 Corinthians 8.13*.

B) Be patient - longsuffering

1. See that no one repays evil for evil, *1 Thess. 5.15*.

2. Do good to those who are spiteful, *Romans 12.17*.

C) Apply the Golden Rule, *Matthew 7.12*

1. Listen to what the other person is saying, *James 1.19-20*

2. Can you explain what the other person's argument is?

3. Don't escalate the tension, *Proverbs 15.1*.

a. A loud voice is often the result of a weak argument.

4. Do good, *Romans 12.19-21*

Conclusion:

I don't agree with Ellen DeGeneres' but I agree with her message of be kind to those who you do not agree with. We are called to be different, *Matthew 5.46-48*. Jesus calls us to bear His cross, *Matthew 11.28-30*. Are you willing to do so tonight?