

Bellefield  
Presbyterian  
Church

Pastor  
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Soli Deo Gloria



Dear BPC Family & Friends,

How do we generally treat each other as God's own who belong to Jesus Christ and are members of one another in His church? God calls us His *family*. In our Bellefield family, *Fostering Deep Relationships* is one of our core values.

What kind of grade would we give ourselves on BPC kindness? A gold star? Kindness powerfully builds community when coupled with faith in Jesus' work for us. So may God the Holy Spirit work such a work in us that we see kindness, feel it, everywhere in BPC. May God greatly be glorified in us. May He give us a gold star in kindness from the inside out. *D&B*

## Star Point 5: The Source of Kindness

5:2 says, "Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Jesus Christ is the source of our kindness to others and even to ourselves. The Holy Spirit creates kindness inside for faith that 1] Christ

died in *our* place; 2] God has forgiven all *our* sins. To be kind you must believe you are forgiven for all your sins ever; 3] *we* are loved by God. Believe this deeply



*Christ's death was a sweet fragrance to God the Father.*

& you will see a miracle of kindness in your own life. So dwell on this and let us now as BPC be kinder than ever before to one another. God is greatly glorified by a very kind church.

## Sermon Helps 11/15/09

### The Gold Star of Kindness —On Shining from the Inside Out



## Bellefield Presbyterian Church

He was 16, the youngest deacon of the congregation ever. His parents were proud and now worried. The police had escorted him home with proof of a six-pack of beer. His parents told him he'd have to resign

as a deacon and demanded he go to the Session to confess. So he did. He hung his head low as he spoke telling them how he'd disappointed their trust, his parents', too. All the

while his eyes stayed low. Finally the oldest elder spoke.



He hung his head in shame wearing a dunce cap of his own making.

### Ephesians 4:17-5:2

*Sermon Points at a Glance—5 points on the gold star of kindness:*

1. The *extent* of Christian kindness;
2. The *depth* of Christian kindness;
3. The *pattern* of Christian kindness;
4. The *instrument* of Christian kindness; &
5. The *source* of Christian kindness.

## Five Points of the Star

This verse offers the following 5 pts on the star of Christian kindness:

- 1] its *extent*,
- 2] its *depth*;
- 3] its *pattern*,
- 4] its *instrument* & finally,

- 5] its *source*.  
May Christ be glorified in all our kindness.

## Star Point 1: The *Extent* of Kindness

How much kindness should we show? Verse 31 answers: Christian kindness is so extensive that it replaces, "*All* bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander...*all* malice."

The word "all" is used twice: at the beginning, "*all* bitterness" and at the end, "*all* malice."



Read the Bible wisely on anger.

self that must be put off. Does this mean *all* wrath and anger? Not really. We have to make an *key*

These are part of the old corrupt

*important distinction* here.

## Star Point 2: The *Depth* of Kindness

The point here is that kindness is not merely an *external* change of manners and politeness, where you become like

the Queen of England. No, God says it is to be an *internal* change of the heart. Vs. 32 says, "Be *tenderhearted*." If the

heart is hard on the inside, it doesn't cut it. This is deep inside stuff.

"Tender" means your insides are easily touched.

## Star Point 3: The *Pattern* of Kindness

A radiant pattern of Christian kindness shines here. Our pattern is the forgiveness of God (vs. 32) that comes be-

cause of the love of the Lord Jesus (5:2). First, God's love shines forth in rays of forgiveness that reach us inside.



Be a shooting star, golden with Christian kindness.

## Star Point 3 (cont.): The Pattern of Christian Kindness —3 More Radiances of Christ's Love on Our Kindness

Christ's love teaches us 3 things. 1] His love for us is undeserved, and so we shouldn't insist that people earn our kindness. None of us ever qualified to be loved by Jesus. Freely we have

received? Well, then, freely let us give. 2] His love for us is holy with an aim—the holiness of the church! So, in one sense, we should do more than have a love that's driven by mere sentiment and emotion. Kindness given aims at the holiness of a man and a woman, not at their approval or their worldly happiness. Chris-



Revenge music? Or Christ centered

tian kindness is not a strategy to avoid conflict. 3] His love was sacrificial and self-denying. Ours should be, too. It's hardest to show this kindness when we've been hurt. But at that point we should be specially kind.

"Love always aims at holiness, not ever first at worldly happiness."

## Star Point 4: *Instrument* of Kindness

What is it that we must employ or exert in order to become kind? The answer is hinted in the verb of 31. Literally "*be taken*

*away from you*." It is a passive verb. The instrument is not simply ourselves. We



The Holy Spirit brings kindness.

are *to be acted upon*. renewed. So believe in the Holy Spirit at work inside you.