

April 25th, 2013

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

This morning I would like to continue our examination of the Seven Godly Virtues. We've examined Humility and Patience and today I would like to lift up the virtue of Kindness.

King David wrote in Psalm 21 *"Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor."* (Psalm 21:21) God makes a promise through David that has been fulfilled over and over again!

Kindness, like Love, is one of those things that is difficult to adequately define, but you sure know it when you receive it. **Miriam-Webster** defines Kindness simply as the *"quality or state of being kind."*

When I think of receiving kindness many experiences come to mind but most powerfully it was in August of 1983. I was working on a moving truck and at a truck stop in Lake Manawa, Iowa, when I learned that my father had died suddenly and unexpectedly from a heart attack. I asked my driver to take me back the 40 miles or so to Omaha, Nebraska so that I could catch a flight back to California, and he refused saying that he was heading east not west and would drop me off in Des Moines and I could catch a cab to the airport.

In a moment of grief, anger and immaturity, I said a few choice words to the driver stomped out to the truck, grabbed my duffel bag and started walking towards the westbound highway. I got about a quarter of a mile when a car pulled over with a little old man driving and his wife by his side. They asked where I was going and offered to give me a ride to the airport in Omaha because, "We're going right by there anyway." I threw my stuff in the trunk and off we went. We traveled in silence for about ten minutes before the wife shared that they had overheard me in the truck stop and were very sorry for my loss. I thanked them and they said that it was no problem they were heading to Omaha anyway and promised to pray for me and my family. The airport in Omaha is small and just off the freeway with one road coming in and going out. In a short time I was dropped off and watch that lovely couple drive off getting on the freeway heading...EAST. I said a silent prayer of thanks for their kindness and walked into the airport with a heavy heart but also knowing that I had been blessed by those two lovely people.

The virtue of Kindness counters the vice of Envy. Rather than desiring what another has the virtue of kindness seeks to give of



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oneself fully in compassion and empathy.

While the Latin term for Kindness is "Benevolentia" or Benevolence, it almost gives the impression that kindness comes because we have more than enough within us and we just want give more. St. Paul tells us that Kindness is not a natural product but a super natural spiritual abundance given by God the Holy Spirit: "***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,***" (Galatians 5:22)

We discover that the closer we come to the Lord and the more we invite the Holy Spirit into our lives the less we think of ourselves and more we think of others. My prayer for you and me is that the virtue of Kindness will be a natural outpouring of our relationship with God the Holy Spirit!

Blessings to you all!

Bishop Menees

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[April 2013 Edition of The San Joaquin Anglican](#)

Check this edition of the San Joaquin Anglican
for current news of the Diocese!

[Diocesan Calendar](#)

Check the Diocesan Calendar for information on upcoming events!

April 26th - 27th - Diocesan Altar Guild Conference

@ St. Luke's in Merced

April 28th - Bishop @ St. John's in Petaluma

April 29th - May 1st - Clergy Retreat

May 3-May 6th - Well Youth Retreat @ St. Mark's in Shafter

May 5th - Bishop @ St. Mark's in Shafter

May 6th - Lao Mission Project @ 6:30 p.m.

May 8th - Rural Deans @ 10:00 a.m.

May 12th - Bishop @ Disciples Anglican in Anaheim

May 18th - Diocesan Council @ 10 a.m.

May 19th - The Feast of Pentecost

Bishop @ St. Francis in Turlock

May 25th- Bishop @ St. Peter's in Kernville

May 26th - Bishop @ St. Michael's in Ridgecrest

August 2-4th - Anglican Church Women's Annual Retreat

at Camp San Joaquin

