



stance to the contrary in the heart of the Gospel—His sacrifice. So then, we see all actions of our Lord throughout His life from beginning to end were motivated by His love for us. Sometimes folks may need to hear a sharp rebuke, but we must take care that our words are spoken out of love not from a vindictive heart.

If we find ourselves the victims of unwarranted verbal abuse and cursing or mistreatment of any kind, we must remember the Spirit's guidance that "[Love] **does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered**" (1 Cor. 13:5). As tempted as we may be to answer someone who has just cussed us out with a similar response, do not forget Christ's teaching: **"...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"** (Matt. 5:44). The God of Heaven will hold us accountable for acting in a manner unworthy of His Son, for He has made His way clear: **"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone"** (Rom. 12:14, 17). If our Lord could pray for His murderers and promise paradise to a penitent man who had previously insulted Him, should we give anything less than strive to do the same?



Faithful Sayings Issue 13.37 September 11, 2011

4700 Andrews Ave.
Amarillo TX 79106
806-352-2809
www.olsenpark.com

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

13.37

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

September 11
2011



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Pat Goguen
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Jason Garcia

Be Kind

By Jason Garcia

We've all been tested. The driver who's in too big of hurry for his own good, and cuts you off; the impatient clerk who, when asked, offers a snide remark rather than helpful information; the waiter who seems more interested in talking about his weekend with co-workers than doing his job; the unappreciative boss, and the rude colleague—all of these things can get under our skin. Sometimes we're so well acquainted with the sour attitudes of others that we know what to expect, at other times we're blind-sided by some back-handed comment. It's enough to make anyone give up talking to other people for good. Jesus had to deal with some of the most disrespectful, ignorant, and short-tempered people ever written about during His life. Paul also lived in a particularly hostile time and described his condition as being **"hard-pressed from all sides"** (2 Cor. 4:8). The Lord of Heaven was called an impostor, and His chosen apostles died daily (cf. 1 Cor.

15:31). To be sure, any mistreatment we face, the Lord has already endured and many brethren who have come before us. But no matter how rude, mean-spirited, or threatening men were to the Lord—He loved them and died for them. Although Paul suffered persecution, he never ceased to preach so long as there was a willing listener. We have tremendous examples in

the Lord and other brethren who were kind to those who mistreated them. The question is: How do we imitate that attitude? Whether we are being persecuted for our faith or mistreated by those closest to us, how do we keep from flying off the handle? Not only this, but also maintain a willingness to help them? Let us turn to the Scriptures.

No one may rightfully call himself a Christian if he does not practice kindness. For if one is led by the Spirit then kindness—among other things—will irrevocably manifest itself in his life just as Paul teaches: **“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law”** (Gal. 5:22-23). Immediately we see the crucial role of the attitude in our hearts. If we are to maintain the right attitude we must be focused on it, for the moment we depart from it we leave ourselves open to take on another mindset. Paul again gives us words that we may be familiar with, but reluctant to fully apply when he says,

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from

selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others (Phil. 2:1-4).

Love is the overriding characteristic without which all service to God is meaningless.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

Again Paul shows the intimate connection between our love and kindness for others. In using language that equates the two, he shows them to be inseparable when he says, **“Love is patient, love IS kind”** (1 Cor. 13:4 emphasis mine). When



Jesus sharply rebuked the Pharisees and other leaders for their hypocrisy and wickedness did He cease to love them in those moments? If we say “yes”, we will find a glaring in-

