

Driving thought: Kindness uproots selfishness and repairs relationships.

The impact Gospel-generated kindness

- Uproots \_\_\_\_\_: an attitude of animosity, anger, or harshness – Eph. 4:31
- Uproots clamorous loud \_\_\_\_\_ that stems from wrath and anger – Eph. 4:31
- Uproots \_\_\_\_\_: speech that degrades and disrespects others – Eph. 4:31
- Uproots \_\_\_\_\_: a mean-spirited or vicious attitude or disposition – Eph. 4:31
- Uproots how we \_\_\_\_\_ view people: We naturally view people as ‘friends’ or ‘enemies’ by the benefit or stress we get from them. Receiving God’s forgiveness replaces a self-centered view of people with the same kindness and forgiveness we have received from God – Eph. 4:32; Rom. 2:4
- Enables us to \_\_\_\_\_ God by acting in love and showing kindness as a pleasing sacrifice to God. Kindness \_\_\_\_\_ God. – Eph. 5:1-2

How Christ-centered kindness has impacted the world

- Christian kindness placed value on children; both the born and unborn:
  - Ended the pagan practice of ‘exposing infants’ (infanticide) by placing value on children, orphans, and the physically ‘deformed.’ Abortion and infanticide were widely practiced in the ancient world because children were not considered fully human.
  - Infanticide made a capital offense in the Roman Empire by 374 A.D.
- Christian kindness placed value on all persons, regardless of class, gender, or ethnicity:
  - Gladiatorial games between professional killers, convicts, animals, and POWs was banned in the Roman Empire 404 A.D.
  - Work of William Wilberforce to end slavery in the British Empire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
  - Work of various Christians to end slavery in the United States in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Christian kindness placed value on the ethical treatment of animals
  - Work of William Wilberforce with the passing of laws that penalized animal cruelty.

Opportunities for Christian Kindness in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- Abortion: 54,559,615 American abortions since Roe v. Wade in 1973.
- Orphans, adoption, and foster parenting: “In the U.S. 397,122 children are living without permanent families in the foster care system. 101,666 of these children are eligible for adoption, but nearly 32% of these children will wait over three years in foster care before being adopted” (Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute).
- Human trafficking/sex slavery: “3,287 people are sold or kidnapped and forced into slavery every day” (Force for Compassion).

International Justice Mission <https://www.ijm.org> \*Legally rescuing victims  
Blue Ridge Women’s Center <http://blueridgewoman.org> \*Crisis pregnancy help

Key: bitterness/arguing/slander/malice/naturally/imitate/pleases

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- Uproots **slander**: speech that degrades and disrespects others – Eph. 4:31
- Uproots **malice**: a mean-spirited or vicious attitude or disposition – Eph. 4:31
- Uproots how we **naturally** view people: We naturally view people as ‘friends’ or ‘enemies’ by the benefit or stress we get from them. Receiving God’s forgiveness replaces a self-centered view of people with the same kindness and forgiveness we have received from God – Eph. 4:32; Rom. 2:4
- Enables us to **imitate** God by acting in love and showing kindness as a pleasing sacrifice to God. Kindness **pleases** God. – Eph. 5:1-2

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