

# Kindness in Turbulent Times

**Kindness - the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.**

**Does kindness sound “mushy”? Pollyannish?**

**Let’s see what Don Underwood has to say from his June 11<sup>th</sup> Weekly Message.**

**PEANUTS**

I'M A GREAT BELIEVER IN KINDNESS...



I was running late. I was frustrated. I admit that I was not on my best manners. Late for an appointment, I pulled out my iPhone and asked Siri for help with directions. It was a very simple question, but I received a ridiculous answer, and without thinking I yelled at Siri and called her a name. I regretted it immediately, but the damage had been done. She replied meekly, "I was only trying to help." I couldn't tell for sure, but I think she was crying.

**I was intending to write today about something other than what is going on in America. But let's face it: there are many things making life stressful these days, and it is creating lots of communication challenges. People can look at the same set of facts, or the same television images, and arrive at different interpretations.**

I have had a number of conversations recently with friends and church members about the challenges we are facing. We don't always agree, but I have found these conversations to be inevitably positive because they are characterized by both respect and **kindness**. That word **kindness** has been rattling around in my head for the last several months, and **it seems to me it should be one of the guiding principles about how we conduct ourselves.**

One might say that kindness isn't really a theological word like love or grace or redemption. That it is kind of a mushy, emotional word, a "soft" word. Except for the fact that it appears in one of the greatest scriptures in the Judeo-Christian canon:

***“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”  
(Micah 6:8)***

**That message is unambiguous. The Lord *requires* us to do justice, love kindness, and practice humility. There is an awful lot of pain in the world right now, and it is coming at us in lots of ways.**

***Practicing kindness, along with humility, can go a long way in healing the divisions that haunt us. It is also the very best way to maintain your own joy and sense of humor when the conversation gets tough.***

**In this era of sharp elbows, as Don suggests, let us all resolve to take a breath...and not just be nice...but maybe a little more kind to our fellow citizens.**



**Kindness implies being proactive and not just “nice”. Maybe a little like this recent “Good Samaritan” story**











