

NANCY DEMOSS
WOLGEMUTH

A DEEPER
KIND OF

Kindness



Revive Our Hearts™

© 2021 *Revive Our Hearts*
First printing, 2021

Published by *Revive Our Hearts*
P.O. Box 2000, Niles, MI 49120

ISBN: 978-1-934718-86-5

Printed in the United States of America.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without permission from the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in other works or reviews.

Adapted from chapter 14 of *Adorned: Living Out the Beauty of the Gospel Together* by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth (©2017).
Published by Moody Publishers. Used by permission.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Select Scripture quotations taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved. www.lockman.org

Contents

4	A Word from Nancy
9	Instruments of Grace
35	Making It Personal
39	100 Different Kinds of Kindness
55	Notes

A WORD FROM NANCY

You don't have to look very far to see that there's a crisis of kindness in our world today. Or, to be more accurate, a crisis of a *lack* of kindness.

Incivility, rudeness, and arrogance are the currency of choice in the marketplace of ideas. Dogmatic rants and angry debates are sure to increase ratings on cable and network news channels. On social media, we add filters to disguise blemishes, smooth wrinkles, or to make it look like we're working from the beach, but the internal filter meant to restrain our tongue and behaviors? That one, we leave behind.

And that's just the crisis *outside* of the home. Inside the home, we're not much better. (Sometimes worse!) We're quick to lash out at our families, our words brim with sarcasm, and instead of looking for ways to serve our nearest neighbors, we are intent on promoting *our* comfort, *our* convenience, *our* plans, *our* wishes.

We may know our Bibles well and be able to recite lots of verses. We may affirm what Scripture teaches from cover to cover. But it's not enough to simply have sound doctrine and firm convictions about biblical truth. We also need to be clothed in kindness as we live out that truth and share it with others.

We often think of kindness as an attitude, a spirit, a manner of speaking or being—and it is all of that. But biblical kindness also involves actions and behavior. In fact, elsewhere in Scripture, the word translated “kindness” in Titus 2 is sometimes translated “good.” It means to be “benevolent, profitable, useful.” It means to be “good in character and beneficial in effect.”

You see, Christian kindness is not just a matter of *feeling* kind or *thinking* kind thoughts. It’s not just a demeanor that is quiet and non-hostile. It may encompass all of those things, but true kindness is *active* goodness. It’s actively influencing others.

During His ministry here on earth, Jesus showed us the heart of His heavenly Father who is kind, compassionate, and does good to His creatures. And astonishingly, God’s kindness is not based on the goodness or worthiness of the recipient. This is the standard as we seek to show active kindness—God’s kindness—to those around us.

Why does kindness matter so much? What’s at stake if we don’t live this way? Titus 2:5 reminds us that the purpose is “that the word of God may not be reviled.” If we don’t live a life of active kindness, people will scoff at the Word of God!

But when we are kind, when we go about doing good—including to those who are ungrateful and undeserving—we stand out. We’re countercultural. And

most important, we demonstrate the presence of Jesus in our lives when we're different from the self-centered, angry, unkind world around us.

Whether you're older or younger, at work or at home, raising children or serving in the church, I pray this booklet will help you to weave a deeper kind of kindness into the fabric of your life. When we take the deep work of kindness seriously, our enemies "may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us" (Titus 2:8). And above all, we will shine a spotlight on Jesus, making the redemption story visible to those who need to hear it, "that in everything [we] may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior" (v. 10).

What a calling! What a responsibility! What a privilege is ours.

~ Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

*Pure kindness flows from God's saving grace and colors our
lives with a joy that is winsomely contagious.*

MARY BEEKE

*Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior,
not slanderers or slaves to much wine.*

*They are to teach what is good,
and so train the young women
to love their husbands and children,
to be self-controlled, pure, working at home,*

kind,

*and submissive to their own husbands,
that the word of God may not be reviled.*

TITUS 2:3-5