

# Oaks-West Church of Christ

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November 29, 2020

## How To Overcome a Culture of Crassness

*by Ken Weliever*

Crude. Coarse. Crass. These words often describe our culture today. It is seen and heard in all segments of our society as people interact in business, sports and politics. It is evident in the entertainment industry. And is too often witnessed in the way young people talk to one another.

So what's the solution to this national epidemic of abrasive behavior? It's a simple Bible command. Often overlooked. Easily ignored. Difficult to do, sometimes.

The Apostle Paul exhorted, "Be kind to one another." (Eph 4:32)

The word translated kind means "useful, virtuous, good, manageable, pleasant, mild."

Kindness is one of the qualities of love (1Cor. 13:4).

The character of the new man in Christ

is to be clothed in kindness (Col. 3:12).

The fruit of the Holy Spirit living in us is kindness, along with love, joy peace, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

Among the virtues that Peter says needs to be added to our faith is brotherly kindness (2 Peter 1:7).

Why so much about kindness in the scriptures? Because it is so easy to be unkind, to speak sharply, and to act in a way that lacks civility and common courtesy. Our fleshly nature is filled with pride, selfishness and an exaggerated sense of our importance. These are enemies of brotherly kindness.

Often when we become irritated with others and impatient with their faults, sharp words that reflect a spirit of

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unkindness can come forth from our hearts and out of our mouths.

Some may say, “Well, I am just a blunt person. That’s just the way I am.” God says, if you are blunt to the point of being unkind, you need to change! He says, “Be kind one to another.”

Another may argue, “You can’t beat around the bush with people. You’ve got to get to the point.” If you’re getting to the point is done in an unkind manner, God desires that you change your approach!

“But, I don’t mean to be unkind,” one may protest, “It just comes out that way.” Good! Since you don’t mean it, God says you need to work on your heart. Change what is inside and what will come out will be kind!

In a world that is often insensitive, cold and calloused, Christians are called upon to be different. As we interact with our brethren, friends and family, let’s learn to be nice. Be considerate. Be caring. Be loving. Be patient. Be kind.

Kindness overlooks minor issues. Kindness encourages the weak, the novice, and the timid. Kindness lifts up the young and inspires them to greater service.

Unkindness discourages. Disheartens. Demoralizes. When we are unkind we dampen the spirit of others.

Let’s all work on being kinder and gentler.

Let’s rid ourselves of cutting remarks. Cruel put downs. Critical judgments.

Kindness will make the home happier, the church family closer, and our friends friendlier! And it is the answer to the crudeness of our culture today.

Clothe yourself with kindness!

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## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**



**Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes** - Tuesday, December 8 at the building.

**Services for rest of 2020** - The elders have decided to continue with the current service times of 10:45 am Sundays and 7:00 pm Wednesdays for the remainder of the year. We will reevaluate in December. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we make these difficult decisions! --DT for the elders

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

June Owens  
Jack Wilson  
Jerry & Nancy Richardson  
Karen Hallmark  
Shirley Perkins' brother, Leon  
Morgan O'Hair  
Dinah Williams  
Kevin Barth  
Tyler Hairston  
Anna Urquhart  
Dot's son, Hank

*And continue to pray for each other*

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”**  
**(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

