

# **FAST Lesson 3E:**

## **A Real Man leads with a Servant's Heart – Kindness and Sincere Love**

John Kain, 2009

- I. There is no higher calling than to love God and to love people sincerely. God the father sent his essence (God the son) in order to reveal what love is really all about – to correct oversimplified images or partial truths about God. Jesus demonstrated that grace (unwarranted favor and forgiveness) enables fellowship to occur, and his “amazing grace” gives us the opportunity for a close relationship with God.
- II. However, there are many things in this world that hinder fellowship with God and with one another. Fear, pride, resentment, vengeance, cruelty and injustice are just a few.
- III. We are called to rise above our sinful nature, and with the power of the Holy Spirit to live a life marked by kindness - the practice of being sincerely sympathetic and compassionate toward people.
- IV. God's view of kindness is far reaching. It involves everything from small actions on our part...to lifestyle changes...to the major decisions we make.
- V. Kindness begins with caring about people, as seen in God's love for us. Kindness is even recognized as an important part of effective leadership in business. Corporate leader Jack Welch put it this way when describing influential people who are winners in the competitive workplace: “People with passion care – really care to the bones – about colleagues, employees, and friends winning. They love to learn and grow, and they get a huge kick when the people around them do the same.”
- VI. Kindness demands that we prioritize people over things. It requires that we listen more than we talk, that we encourage (give hope, confidence and courage) rather than criticize, and that we forgive rather than blame.

“**Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other**, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Now remain in my love.** If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: **Love each other as I have loved you.** Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:9-13)

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love** that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:16-19)

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But **perfect love drives out fear**, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” (1 John 4:16-18)

“**Love must be sincere.** Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.” (Romans 12:9)

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, **love one another deeply, from the heart.**” (1 Peter 1:22)

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness, love.” (2 Peter 1:5-7)

“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.” (Romans 15:1)