



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

SERIES: FAMILY MATTERS | SERMON 3

Sermon: Code Of Conduct

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 9/7/2025 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: The Power of Kindness

Devotional: Kindness is a simple yet profound expression of our faith. It doesn't require special qualifications or abundant resources—just a willing heart. When we look at Jesus' life, we see kindness in action. He touched lepers when others recoiled. He spoke gently to the broken when others condemned. He offered second chances when others demanded punishment. In a world increasingly characterized by harshness and division, our kindness stands out like a beacon. It's not just a nice personality trait but a spiritual fruit that should naturally grow in our lives as believers. The simple acts—a genuine smile, a thoughtful word, a moment of patience when frustrated—these become powerful testimonies. Sadly, churches sometimes become places where kindness is lacking. When this happens, we contradict the very essence of the God we claim to serve. Our witness becomes compromised, and the world sees hypocrisy rather than Christ. Today, consider how you might intentionally practice kindness. Perhaps it means listening without interrupting, offering help without being asked, or speaking words that build up rather than tear down. These small acts align our lives with Christ's example and invite others to experience His love through us.

Bible Verse: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." - Colossians 3:12-13

Reflection Question: In what specific situation today could you choose kindness when your natural response might be indifference or harshness?

Quote: You don't have to have a college education, be kind. You don't have to have great resources to be kind. Kindness should be a fruit that comes out of us. It's something as easy as a smile or just being polite.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for Your perfect example of kindness. Forgive me for the times I've been unkind or indifferent. Help me to clothe myself with Your kindness today, especially in challenging situations. May others see You through my actions. Amen.

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Day 2: Bound Together in Love

Devotional: The Christian virtues Paul describes in Colossians form a beautiful tapestry of character. Compassion allows us to feel deeply for others. Kindness moves us to act on that feeling. Humility keeps us from thinking too highly of ourselves. Gentleness tempers our strength with consideration. Patience helps us endure when relationships are difficult. But what holds this tapestry together? Love. Without love, our attempts at virtue can become hollow performances or self-righteous displays. Love transforms these qualities from mere behaviors into authentic expressions of Christ in us. This love isn't the fleeting emotion portrayed in movies. It's the deliberate, sacrificial commitment that seeks the highest good of others—even when it costs us something. It's the love that forgives when wronged, perseveres when tested, and celebrates the success of others without envy. When we allow God's love to bind our virtues together, our relationships change. Marriages grow stronger through difficulties. Family conflicts find resolution. Church disagreements become opportunities for growth rather than division. Communities experience healing. Today, examine whether love truly binds your other virtues together. Are you kind because it makes you look good, or because you genuinely love others? Do you practice patience because you love the person testing it?

Bible Verse: "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." - Colossians 3:14

Reflection Question: Which relationship in your life most needs the binding power of love right now, and what specific act of love could you offer in that relationship today?

Quote: Selfishness will kill a marriage. Selfishness will kill a community. Selfishness will kill a church.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your perfect love that binds all things together. Help me to love others not just in word but in action and truth. Show me how to express Your love in my relationships today, especially where there is tension or distance. May Your love be the defining characteristic of my life. Amen.

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Day 3: The Rule of Peace

Devotional: Peace isn't merely the absence of conflict—it's the presence of something greater. In a world of constant tension, anxiety, and division, God offers His peace as the ruling principle for our hearts. When peace rules in our hearts, we respond differently to life's challenges. Traffic jams become opportunities for prayer rather than frustration. Difficult people become divine assignments rather than obstacles. Uncertain futures become invitations to trust rather than reasons to worry. This peace doesn't deny reality or pretend problems don't exist. Instead, it provides perspective that transcends circumstances. It reminds us that God remains sovereign even when life feels chaotic. It assures us that temporary struggles won't derail eternal purposes. Peace also serves as a powerful witness. When others observe our calm in crisis, our stability amid storms, they glimpse something supernatural. Our peace becomes a question mark in their minds: "How can they remain so steady when everything is falling apart?" Today, identify what threatens your peace. Is it a relationship conflict? Financial pressure? Health concerns? Work stress? Rather than allowing these circumstances to rule your heart, consciously invite God's peace to take its rightful place on the throne of your emotions and thoughts.

Bible Verse: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." - Colossians 3:15

Reflection Question: What specific situation is currently robbing you of peace, and how might viewing it through the lens of God's sovereignty change your response?

Quote: Let the peace of God rule in your hearts. How we need peace. You want to make an impact on those that you come in contact with that do not know Jesus Christ. Let the peace of God rule your heart.

Prayer: Prince of Peace, I confess that I often allow circumstances to determine my inner state rather than Your presence. Today I choose to let Your peace rule in my heart. Guard my mind against anxiety and fear. Help me to be a peaceful presence that draws others to You. Thank You that Your peace transcends understanding. Amen.

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Day 4: A Life of Gratitude

Devotional: Gratitude transforms everything it touches. It turns what we have into enough. It converts routine jobs into meaningful work. It changes ordinary moments into opportunities for joy. Most importantly, it shifts our focus from what's wrong to what's right—from what's missing to what's present. Paul instructs believers to let the word of Christ dwell richly among them, teaching and admonishing one another with wisdom, and singing with gratitude in their hearts. This connection between God's word and gratitude isn't coincidental. The more deeply we understand God's truth, the more reasons we find for thanksgiving. When we remember that we were once dead in sin but now alive in Christ, gratitude rises. When we recognize that our temporary troubles are producing eternal glory, thanksgiving flows. When we realize that nothing can separate us from God's love, praise becomes natural. Gratitude also serves as an antidote to many spiritual poisons. It's difficult to remain bitter when actively practicing thankfulness. It's challenging to stay envious while counting your own blessings. It's nearly impossible to feel entitled when recognizing everything as gift. Today, intentionally notice God's goodness around you. Thank Him for small mercies and major provisions alike. Let gratitude become your default response rather than complaint or criticism.

Bible Verse: "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." - Colossians 3:16

Reflection Question: What three specific blessings in your life have you been taking for granted, and how might regularly acknowledging them change your perspective?

Quote: We serve a God who is a problem solver. I mean, there's no realm that he cannot solve problems in. No matter what it is, he can take care of it.

Prayer: Gracious God, forgive me for focusing more on what I lack than on Your abundant provision. Open my eyes to see Your goodness all around me. Fill my heart with gratitude that overflows in praise. Help me to encourage others through a thankful spirit rather than pulling them down with complaints. May my life become a continuous expression of thanksgiving to You. Amen.

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Day 5: Shining Light in Darkness

Devotional: We live in challenging times. Cultural values increasingly diverge from biblical truth. Moral foundations once taken for granted now face questioning or outright rejection. Spiritual darkness seems to be growing deeper. Yet this darkness provides the perfect backdrop for light to shine most brilliantly. Just as stars are most visible against the blackest night sky, so Christians have unprecedented opportunity to stand out by living transformed lives. Paul reminds us that whatever we do—whether in word or deed—should be done in Jesus' name, giving thanks to God. This comprehensive approach to life means no artificial division between "spiritual" and "secular" activities. Our work, our parenting, our neighborliness, our citizenship, our recreation—all become opportunities to represent Christ. When we parent with patience and wisdom, we shine light. When we work with integrity and excellence, we shine light. When we disagree politically without demonizing others, we shine light. When we serve without recognition, we shine light. Rather than retreating from culture or merely condemning it, we're called to engage it redemptively—bringing Christ's transforming presence into every sphere of influence God has given us. The darker the world becomes, the more our light matters.

Bible Verse: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17

Reflection Question: In which specific area of your life (work, family, community) do you have the greatest opportunity to shine Christ's light, and what one change could make that light shine more brightly?

Quote: This is a dark world, but God, we also know that light shines the brightest in a dark place.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for the privilege of representing You in this dark world. Forgive me when I've hidden my light or when my actions have misrepresented Your character. Help me to live in such a way that others are drawn to Your light in me. Use my ordinary life to accomplish Your extraordinary purposes. May everything I do and say bring honor to Your name. Amen.

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