

Why Should Kindness Be Random?

I'm not a fan of random acts of kindness. Don't write me off as a curmudgeon. After all, my dad did raise me right.

- I hold the door open for people (not just women, thank you).
- I speak politely to the high school kid working the drive-thru.
- I rescue baby bunnies from the dietary plans of my beagle.



When a need for kindness is right in front of me, I should take it. That's biblical. Followers of Christ are commanded to *clothe* themselves with kindness (Col. 3:12). Kindness is part of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

We're not being random when we encounter someone who could obviously use some kindness.

Jesus told a story about a man who did an incredible act of kindness for a stranger. The parable of the Good Samaritan is about a Jew and a Samaritan, two men Jesus' audience would have considered enemies. It was obvious to the Samaritan that the Jew was in a bad way--

beaten and robbed--and he helped. That's true kindness.

Kindness is seeing a need and responding in a good, gracious way that truly benefits the person. That captures the meaning of the Greek word and how it was used in the New Testament.

It may feel kind to *us* to pay for the coffee of the person in line behind us, but the guy spending \$4.75 for a skinny white vanilla latte probably is not in need of someone buying his coffee.

The Samaritan didn't pay to the lodging bill for everyone; he paid for *the one who needed it*.

Let's be kind—but let's be intentional in our kindness. Do it for those who could use the help or who need the encouragement. Don't just be nice; through your intentional act of kindness, build a relationship. Show them the love of Christ in the process. And do it to honor Jesus.

