

LETTER FROM CARTER CONLON

Dear friend,

Maybe I'm just getting older and a bit nostalgic, but I remember a time when people seemed kinder and much more cordial toward each other. My father was a friendly and gracious man. As a boy I loved to go places with him because it seemed to me that he was on a first-name basis with almost everybody!

As a youth I had a sports coach whom I also greatly admired. He was a calm and kind man. When he spoke, those around him always felt encouraged. I used to think that one day I would like to be like him.

Pastor David Wilkerson once said that you and I are the only Bible people in our generation will read to determine whether or not Jesus Christ is worthy to serve. It is so important that our words and actions truly represent the heart of God for them.

I hope you are blessed by "The Last Day Battle for Kindness."
Have a great day.

Yours in Christ,



Carter Conlon
Senior Pastor.

THE LAST DAY BATTLE FOR KINDNESS

by Carter Conlon

Jesus was in agony as He hung nailed to a rough hewn cross. His brow punctured and bleeding from a crown of thorns cruelly set upon His head. His back lacerated from the Roman leather whip called the cat o' nine tails. Those who passed by added insult to injury by mocking and ridiculing Him. The thieves, who were crucified with him, joined with the crowd below. Then in a moment of conviction one thief had a change of heart and cried out, "*Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom*" (Luke 23:42, NLT).

Imagine for a minute, what a different Gospel the world would have, if Jesus had retaliated by throwing an angry and disapproving glance at the thief, and said, "I could have taken you to paradise, but you have not stopped mocking me for the past hour. I have had enough of your condescending remarks, so I am sorry, it is all over, you are about to descend into hell." Thank God this was not the case! If it had been, all of humanity would be without hope. Instead, the transpiring dialogue between them displayed the awesome kindness of the Son of God. Immediately out of His mouth came the most powerful and comforting words heard by the dying thief, "*I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise*" (Luke 23:43, NLT).

■ THE AMAZING KINDNESS OF GOD

Under the anointing of the Holy Spirit David glimpsed the amazing kindness of God when he wrote, "*The Lord is gracious, and full of*

compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all; and his tender mercies are over all his works. All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom" (Psalm 145:8–12). David revealed the true character of God. He is gracious, full of compassion, slow to anger, merciful, and good to all. Scriptures conclusively demonstrate God's kindness to the believer and the sinner alike. However, for the believer there is an abiding weightiness, richness, and majesty (glory) experienced personally when serving Him. God will always have a people in the earth whose lives are a direct expression of His kindness. He will have a people who do not just talk about Him, but exude and express His kindness to the world.

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■ A LAW ABIDING WITHIN

Kindness, beloved, is not a random or momentary act in word or deed

when you are feeling good. It is a continual law abiding within. This is confirmed in Proverbs 31:26, *“She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.”* You need to see this verse directed not only to an outstanding wife in a loving marriage, but also as a type directed for the bride of Christ. The law of kindness is something etched by God deep into the heart of all believers, and it flows from His bride as something which cannot be altered.

It is true, as a Christian you may struggle in showing kindness from time to time or even desiring to do so. Fortunately, this law of kindness within you cannot be distorted by circumstances or opinions, and it will always take precedence over whatever attempts to discredit it. The law of kindness, which God himself writes in your heart, will keep you from becoming condemned, especially when you remember you have not always acted with kindness. Immediately the devil is there unfolding in your mind all the wretched things you have said or thought in the last week or two. This condemnation can become an insurmountable mountain if you let it. In fact, you might be saying right now, “Oh God, I have tried so hard to be kind. I have wanted to be kind. I have wanted to be an expression of your goodness. But I find it so difficult.” If you have uttered these words you are not alone. God completely understands and has His own antidote for the devil’s lies. Remember, Israel failed God continually, yet it was God who said, *“The covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people”* (Jeremiah 31:33). Hallelujah!

You must realize it is not within you to be kind in the way God wants you to be. I do not have the capability, in my natural being, to express the true kindness of God on a continual basis. All of my abilities are conditional and I have no doubt yours are as well. The unconditional kindness of God has to be something He writes with the pen of His own character upon your heart. It can never be accomplished by human effort regardless of how well mannered and disciplined you are. It is by the supernatural infusion of the life of God in you through Jesus Christ. God gives you the capacity to be kind. It is a gift which far transcends any of your natural desires or the most wishful thinking on your finest day.

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■ TRUE STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

It is not weakness to be kind. It takes strength of character to be kind when others do you wrong. Weakness is easily identifiable. It is when you respond in anger and a desire for retribution, rather than in tenderness and a forgiving heart. In reality weakness is powerlessness. Proverbs 25:28 says, *“He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls.”* The person who lives a life not governed by

God and His kindness will soon begin to divide and be divided.

Rehoboam, the son of King Solomon is a prime example of this. Directly after inheriting a kingdom intact and prospering from his father Solomon, he became the source of immense pain and division. Rehoboam was approached by Israel’s leaders from the north. They came in peace requesting ease from the heavy taxation and labor rules of his father Solomon.

Elderly sages to the new king strongly cautioned him saying, “If you are kind to the people, and speak kind words to them, they would be your loyal servants forever.” Not satisfied with what he must have considered to be weak counsel, he sought out and accepted the immature wisdom of his peers. They offered a faulty recommendation, completely lacking in the kindness of God. *“And the king answered them roughly; and king Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the old men, and answered them after the advice of the young men, saying, my father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. And when all Israel saw that the king would not hearken unto them, the people answered the king, saying, what portion have we in David? And we have none inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to your tents, O Israel: and now, David, see to thine own house. So all Israel went to their tents”* (2 Chronicles 10:13–14,16).

As a result of his rough speaking, ten tribes of Israel severed all relations with him and became what was called the northern kingdom. He ended up ruling over a divided kingdom with his power and authority diminished. Rehoboam was left with only two tribes, Judah and Benjamin. He became marginalized, pushed to the side of history, and the final impact

of his life was negligible. This is the final outcome of a man who resisted the law of kindness to be written on the tablet of his heart. Looking at the legacy he left, you do not see a strong man but a weak one. You do not see a man taking the counsel of God, but rather rejecting it to set about establishing his own kingdom.

An unkind spirit will always separate you from the fullness of what your life and testimony can be. It leaves you with only a portion of what Christ desired to do through you.

Do not even try to tell me it is not going to be an uphill battle to be kind, courteous and loving in this day and age.

■ THE DEVIL'S BATTLE LINES

Rehoboam, is a sad but profound illustration of the last day battle for kindness. The devil has drawn up his battle lines. He will use every tactic in his war chest to halt the power of God's kindness from touching the lives of people.

Paul clearly saw what the church would face in our generation. *"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural (meaning family affection) affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent (unable to keep or retain truth), fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors,*

heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:2–5).

The enemy has been laying foundations of vile self-seeking through a persistent barrage of filth via the media. Everything smacks of ingratitude and covetousness. Do not even try to tell me it is not going to be an uphill battle to be kind, courteous and loving in this day and age. It is an end-time battle of lawlessness and rebellion against what is good and holy. I think possibly we have arrived at what Paul plainly wrote about. It is a time of casting away all which is good; the putting behind you of all that is right, and the exalting of everything which is wrong. In this present society we have reached a time when evil is called good and good evil.

■ THE HEART OF GOD REVEALED THROUGH THE CHURCH

Keeping the testimony of kindness alive and powerful will be one of the greatest battles for the church. Fortunately, God cannot be outwitted or defeated by the devil. He has a people who will operate completely in the opposite spirit to this world. They are the firefighters of His heavenly kingdom. When everyone else is running or moving away from the fire, God's people are running and heading toward it. They are not armed with helmets, fireproof uniforms, and axes in hand. They are equipped with the Word of God and the law of kindness written in their hearts. When the world displays mean-spirited antagonism, the true church of Jesus Christ reveals the mercy, generosity and gentleness of God. This is not merely wishful thinking of a utopian ideal in a dog-eat-dog world. No! You can actually represent

everything Jesus is in the earth today. To begin with Paul says, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service"* (Romans 12:1). To comprehend this in our vernacular, Paul is stipulating that you need to come into agreement with God and His ways. It is that simple. I know when others do you harm or malign you in some measure it is easier to want their house to burn down, or for lightening to strike them on their way to work. But that is not being in agreement with God.

The law of kindness is a supernatural transaction accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

Agreement with God is exemplified in this incident between Jesus and His disciples. On arriving at a certain village which refused to welcome Jesus, two disciples James and John, came and asked Him if they should call fire down from heaven like Elijah. In essence they were responding in the same manner as the world around them. Jesus had to correct such hard-hearted thinking. *"He turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village"* (Luke 9:55–56). God's desire is to save life not destroy it. This is where it all starts. Your cry should be *"Lord, your ways are right. I agree with you, there is a law of kindness which is written into my heart and those who represent you*

in the earth.” This should be the testimony of your life.

■ ONLY BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

The law of kindness is a supernatural transaction accomplished by the Holy Spirit. By faith you believe it to be done and it is not a seven-step program. You come to the place of acknowledging you cannot do it, you cannot learn it, and in fact there is nothing in the flesh which has this kind of ability. It is only God who writes His law within you. Your part is to embrace it. The spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made you free from the law of sin and death. You are made free by the power of God within you. The Holy Spirit quickens and raises you out of death. He gives you a new heart, a new spirit, and a new mind. He enables you to stand, not in your own power, but in the supernatural power of God. It has to be His life and it has to be His love. It must be all of His kindness flowing through you.

While the Pharisees and the religious crowd were standing with their arms folded, scratching their beards, trying to figure Him out, lepers, prostitutes and sinners were coming to Him and being changed. They became the recipients of the awesome kindness of God in Christ Jesus. With no hope of a future, this undeserving group of people, all received power to become the children of God. They might have been marginalized in the eyes of the seemingly devout, but they saw and heard a message which proclaimed God was good and His mercy endured forever. It was a concept the pious religious crowd could not and would not hear. It left them on the outside looking in.

Praise God that it is all level ground at the cross. His loving kindness is better than life. No matter where you have come from, whether good or bad, you can still come to God. He will not turn you away regardless of what you have done to people or they have done to you. Because of His incredible grace and kindness to you through His Son, you are able to stand and shout from the rooftops with David, who wrote these words after a particularly difficult battle. *“Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great”* (Psalms 18:35).

Carter Conlon
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This message is an edited version of **“The Last Day Battle For Kindness,”** a sermon given on **May 24, 2009** in the sanctuary of Times Square Church in New York City. Other sermons are available by visiting our website at tscnyc.org. You can also write to: Times Square Church, Sermon Ministry, 1657 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. You are welcome to make additional copies of this sermon for free distribution to friends. However, for all other forms of reproduction or electronic transmission existing copyright laws apply. This sermon cannot be posted on any website or webpage without written permission from Times Square Church. Unless otherwise noted, all scripturereferences are from the King James Version.

CARTER CONLON

Carter Conlon is senior pastor of Times Square Church, where he has been on the pastoral staff since 1994.

TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of *“The Cross and the Switchblade.”* It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	10:00AM	3:00PM	6:00PM
Tuesday	7:00PM	Church Service	
Thursday	7:00PM	Prayer Meeting	
Friday	7:00PM	Church Service	

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