

# THE JOYFUL GENERATION

FEBRUARY 2012

## *The ten minutes before and after services*



Recently members of our church moved to another city due to job transfer. They visited two congregations near their new home. Both congregations came highly recommended. They arrived early, stayed late, and made themselves available. Yet despite their eagerness, no one from Congregation No. 1 greeted them or expressed any interest.

They contacted the preacher during the week and shared their concern. The preacher apologized. The next month they visited Congregation No. 2. During the first two visits, dozens of people greeted them, two Bible classes invited them out to eat, four families had them into their homes, and they received numerous invitations to become part of the congregation.

Guess which church this couple decided to attend? The friendliness of Congregation 2 made a deep impression. The ten minutes before and after each service are

significant times for our guests. Friendliness must be constantly practiced. Each week, several people visit our congregation for the first time. Extend your hand. Put on a smile. Let's be friendly.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another - [John 13:34-35](#)

Copied from House to House, author not given

## *Memory Verses—NKJ*

### **Proverbs 17:9**

He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.

### **Proverbs 17:17**

A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

### **Proverbs 18:24**

A man *who has* friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother.

### **Acts 24:23**

So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let *him* have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him.

## **FRIENDLINESS**

**Definition:** Supporting and helpful.

**Slogan:** "You can always be friendly"



A survey published in American Sociological Review revealed that in 2004, one out of every four Americans had no close friends, and there was a 33 percent decline in the number of friendships over the past two decades. On average, Americans had only two people they would call close confidants (Today in the Word, May 2007).

A man that hath friends must show himself friendly - [Proverbs 18:24](#)



*Home Bible Studies*

**I Samuel 18:1-4**

Saul resents David

**Romans 16:3-4**

Greeting Roman Saints

**2 Timothy 1:16-17**

Onesiphorus shows Paul friendliness

**Acts 20:35**

“more blessed to give than receive”



*Friendliness Quotes*

“My best friend is the one that brings out the best in me. “  
- Henry Ford

"We build too many walls and not enough bridges." - Isaac Newton

“Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it. “  
- Unknown

“I don't like that man. I must get to know him better. “  
- Abraham Lincoln

“A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he cannot get along without it and none is so poor that he cannot be made rich by it. Yet a smile cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.” - unknown





## *Kindness (Friendliness) Applied, by Wayne Jackson*

The New Testament documents have a good deal to say about the necessity of kindness. Paul observes that those who possess love (*agape*) are kind (1 Cor. 13:4); indeed, kindness is one of those qualities that compose the “fruit” of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22) – without which one does not belong to the Lord (Rom. 8:9). It was a marvelous trait that was generously demonstrated by the Lord’s apostles (2 Cor. 6:6).

### *Kindness Applied*

It is one thing to speak of kindness in the abstract, it is quite another to make specific applications. But this is what we must do. We must get down to “where we live.” Let us, therefore, look at several areas in which a greater measure of kindness doubtless is needed..

1. The Christian must look for opportunities to show kindness to others in *society* at large. That next-door neighbor, the waitress in the restaurant, the companion on the plane, etc. It appears that so many these days are “cocked,” ready to “take on” someone at the drop of a hat. A man was checking out at the grocery store. As he picked up his sack to depart, the smiling young lady who was clerking, said: “Have a nice day, sir.” With a glare, he shot back: “Young woman, nobody tells me what to do!” The old-timers used to speak of those who act as if they were weaned on a dill pickle! The early saints earned the reputation of being so very kind to their contemporaries. The Roman ruler Julian, who reigned a brief period in the mid-fourth century A.D., and who despised Christianity, nonetheless unwittingly paid a glowing compliment to the primitive saints when he wrote: “As children are coaxed with cake, so have these Christians enticed the poor to join them by kindness. Strangers they have secured by hospitality. By affecting brotherly love, great moral purity, and honoring their dead, they have won the multitude” (Abbott, p. 340).

2. There must be a greater exhibition of kindness in the *home*. Sometimes husbands and wives are so brutal to one another. Words can cut deeply, and there are those who surgically use the tongue as a deadly instrument, wounding the soul. There are parents who talk to and treat their children no better than a common street dog. Most everyone is aware that child-abuse is virtually epidemic in its scope. Even now, there is the growing maltreatment of aged parents by cruel and ungrateful offspring. In the concluding chapter of the book of Proverbs, there is the recorded testimony of king Lemuel, as taught to him by his dear mother, regarding the woman who is to be deemed “worthy” (31:10 ASV). The Hebrew term *hayil* in this context signifies capable, efficient, and/or quality of character (Wakely, p. 118). Such a remarkable woman is valued far above rubies. Note the adulation she enjoys from her family. Her husband trusts in her, because she does him good and not evil (vv. 11-12). He praises this wonderful wife, and their children join in the chorus; they rise up and call her blessed (vv. 28-29). One of the key elements to the domain of domestic bliss surely has to be this: “the law of kindness is on her tongue” (v. 26b). Is there any doubt about the fact that if more homes were saturated with the benevolence of kindness, there would be far fewer divorces, less juvenile delinquency, and a much greater degree of happiness?

3. There needs to be a larger measure of kindness in the *church*. Some of the early congregations apparently had their problems mastering this virtue. Paul dropped a load on the Ephesians when he wrote: “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and railing, be put away from you, with all malice; and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:31-32). It is interesting here that the verb linked to “kind” literally means “to become,” and its present tense form would suggest, “practice becoming kind to one another.” This would indicate that kindness is something that has to be

diligently pursued and practiced. It does not come easily when dealing with difficult people. How many church problems might be healed if brethren were kinder to each other? In some congregations, where elders do not exist, “business meetings” have become a virtual war zone for the display of all sorts of harshness. Some brethren appear to be unable to approach an issue except in the “attack” mode. There are men who serve as shepherds (elders) who do not treat their flock with kindness. Have you ever noticed how many of the bishop’s qualifications relate to this quality – such traits as no brawler, no striker, not contentious, gentle, patient, given to hospitality, just, a lover of good men? Moreover, as virtually anyone knows, who has his finger on the brotherhood pulse, there are preachers among us who find it most difficult to disagree with others without punctuating their diatribes with the worst sort of epithets. To them, “kindness” is not a virtue; it is compromise and weakness. There are, of course, occasions when one is compelled to deal with error and its advocates in a forceful way. Jesus did (cf. Mt. 23), and he was the epitome of kindness. Moreover, the inspired writers of the New Testament also addressed heresy and the purveyors thereof. There is, however, a difference between dealing with a false ideology or an erring brother, and that in a firm fashion, and being downright vicious. Some of our men have mastered the art of hatefulness.

**May we strive toward a kinder atmosphere in the various compartments of our lives.**



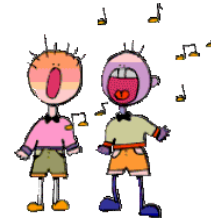
MAIN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Overseeing Elder:  
Larry McDuffie

Deacon:  
Brian McLaughlin

Publisher: Travis Clark

# *Joyful Generation Meets Tonight—after evening services Pizza, Singing, Devotional*



## *WORD SEARCH*

D	F	I	S	N	G	H	U	I	W	S	E	L	J	E			
R	K	R	V	N	C	Y	L	P	S	G	X	O	E	G	ATTITUDE	BROTHER	CHRISTIANS
Y	E	C	I	R	A	X	O	E	P	O	A	V	X	A			
L	U	H	U	E	J	I	N	U	H	V	M	E	V	R			
I	A	H	T	A	N	D	T	U	T	U	P	T	G	U	CHURCH	ELDERLY	ENCOURAGE
M	C	A	Q	O	N	D	V	S	H	H	L	K	F	O			
A	F	G	K	I	R	S	S	M	I	L	E	A	T	C			
F	A	W	K	Y	R	B	I	B	H	R	V	Q	I	N	EXAMPLE	FAMILY	FRIENDLINESS
G	Y	U	Y	W	Z	G	B	K	H	U	H	T	B	E			
S	S	E	N	I	L	D	N	E	I	R	F	C	B	D			
X	B	B	R	B	T	S	L	T	Y	W	N	E	K	M	FRIENDS	HELPFUL	KINDNESS
S	O	Q	Y	Y	H	P	L	U	E	U	S	Z	X	T			
J	O	T	W	L	F	G	A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E			
X	R	J	R	U	S	I	S	T	E	R	I	T	O	J	LOVE	SISTER	YOUTH
U	Z	Y	L	R	E	D	L	E	F	M	K	K	L	N			