

GARMENT 2: KINDNESS

UNIFORM OF A GODLY MAN SERIES

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, **kindness**, humility, gentleness and patience. — Colossians 3:12*

THE POSTURE OF HONOR

Kindness isn't just how you treat people you *like*. It's how you treat people ... period. People you'll never see again. People who have nothing to offer you. People who may never say thank you. And yes, even people you don't trust.

It's easy to be kind to someone you love or respect — your kids, your pastor, your friends, even your coworkers. But **true kindness shows up in the small moments** you could easily excuse or ignore. The cashier who moves slowly. The waiter who forgot your table. The security guard you walk past every morning without ever learning her name.

Kindness sees people — all people — as *image-bearers of God*. Not extras in the story of your life, but souls with eternal value. It lifts others not because of what they can do for you, but because of who they already are to Him.

Paul's words in Colossians 3 are not about forced politeness or niceness for show. They're about clothing yourself with the kind of presence that **treats strangers with dignity**, gives the benefit of the doubt, and carries the tone of heaven into ordinary places.

IT'S IN THE HOW

Kindness isn't just about being helpful. It's about how you show up.

- It's the smile that puts someone at ease.
- The compliment that lifts a coworker's confidence.
- The tone you choose when you could snap.
- The moment you slow down enough to actually listen.
- The unexpected courtesy you extend to a stranger.

Anyone can offer assistance. Kindness offers presence. It's the relational tone of heaven — gentle, respectful, full of light. The world is loud with busyness, criticism and competition. Kindness is what catches people off guard in the best way.

AT WORK: KINDNESS BUILDS CULTURE

In the workplace, kindness doesn't mean being passive or avoiding hard conversations. It means delivering truth with honor. It means making someone feel human in a room that treats them like a resource.

Kindness at work looks like:

- Holding the door for the intern — not to be polite, but to set a tone.
- Giving someone your full attention in a meeting — not just nodding while you type.
- Complimenting the janitor with the same sincerity you'd give the CEO.

Leadership expert Jon Gordon says, *"Kindness isn't just a nice idea — it's a competitive advantage."* Why? Because it creates a culture people want to be part of. And in a world of pressure, that's rare.

DOUG CONANT'S HANDWRITTEN NOTES

Doug Conant, former CEO of Campbell Soup Company, became known for writing over 30,000 handwritten thank-you notes to employees and clients during his tenure.

This wasn't a PR move; it was deeply personal. As he said, sending those notes showed people that "I am personally paying attention and celebrating their contributions." When he was later hospitalized after a serious accident, those same employees flooded him with handwritten messages of encouragement—proof that his kind investment created a culture that cared back.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q.** When you think of someone who's truly kind, what stands out most — their words, their actions, or their presence? Why?
- Q.** Where in your life are you most tempted to overlook people — to treat them like background noise instead of image-bearers?
- Q.** How does your tone or body language change depending on someone's status, usefulness, or how they treat you?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Ephesians 4:29 – “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up...”
- Ephesians 4:32 – “Be kind and compassionate... just as in Christ God forgave you.”
- Titus 3:4–5 – “When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us...”
- Romans 2:4 – “God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance.”

PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your kindness — patient, undeserved, relentless. Help me reflect that same heart in how I speak, lead, and interact with others today. Let me honor people not because they’ve earned it, but because they’re Yours.

ACTION STEP

Choose one ordinary space in your weekly routine — your commute, your lunch break, your walk into the office — and make it your **kindness zone**. Not a checklist, but a mindset shift. Begin asking God, each day, to help you *see people* in that space as He sees them — with dignity, value, and purpose.

Start small: a smile, a name, a question, a thank-you. Ask the Spirit to interrupt your autopilot and grow in you a heart that honors others — not for what they do, but for who they are. Do this daily. And watch how God uses it to rewire your posture, not just your behavior.

KINDNESS

Treating others with dignity, warmth, and honor — not because of who they are to you, but because of who they are to God.