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effort to do good—an interaction that is much more intentional in nature. What’s more, kindness is more biblical.

Did you know that the Bible never tells us to be nice to other people? Interestingly, the only mention of niceties appears in Jeremiah 12:6 (NASB), when the prophet warns his listeners to be wary of them: “For even your brothers and the household of your father, even they have dealt treacherously with you, even they have called aloud after you. Do not believe them, though they say nice things to you.”

In contrast, be kind is a frequent admonition in the Bible and is celebrated as a virtuous action. As we defined earlier, kindness always involves a deliberate effort to accommodate someone else. Consider these examples:

Genesis 19:19 – The angels showed Lot kindness by saving him from Sodom’s destruction.

Ruth 2:20 – Naomi praised Boaz’s treatment of Ruth as a kindness toward them.

2 Samuel 9 – King David purposefully sought out Jonathan’s remaining relatives to care for them.

Ephesians 4:32 – Kindness involves a tender heart and forgiveness of an offender.

We could go on, but hopefully the point is clear. As Christians, we are called to do much more than be nice to those around us. We are people who go the extra mile to be kind. Our concern is to meet needs and be intentional in our interactions so that God is glorified, and humanity is truly better off. So, as you go out today, be nice to those you meet. But more than anything . . . be kind!



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### Nice or Kind?



As children, we all heard the sage wisdom from our parents when we

were on the playground or fighting with our siblings: “Be nice.” To be sure, it’s great advice that helps in interpersonal relationships. Have you ever noticed, though, that in adulthood, the language tends to shift just a little? Instead of “Be nice,” we often hear “Be kind.” Have you ever stopped to ponder the difference between the two? Can we confidently say there is one? I think so.

To be nice means to engage in what is socially expected of you in a given situation. Smile, exchange pleasantries, and follow the social norms. Being nice doesn’t require much effort and can be expressed in the smallest of interactions. On the other hand, to be kind suggests going out of your way to accommodate someone else’s needs. Kindness involves intentionality and a deliberate

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