

What makes relationships last?



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- The Love Lab:
 - *Observe how newlyweds interact.*
- Disasters:
 - *patterns of contempt and criticism.*
- Masters:
 - *atmosphere of trust and intimacy.*
- Key to lasting relationship?
 - ***kindness and generosity.***



What the world needs now... is kindness

- Relationships thrive on kindness.
- Imperfection leaves us **vulnerable**.
- We need kindness / mercy
 - *To **give** what we don't deserve.*
 - *To **forgive** where we don't deserve.*
- We long for care, connection.



What we want from God... is kindness

“God is the kindest person I know” - songwriter Andre de Villiers

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-16 (CEV)

You are *merciful*, LORD!

You are *kind* and *patient*
and always *loving*.

You are *good* to everyone,
and you take *care*
of all your creation...

When someone stumbles or falls,
you give a *helping hand*.
Everyone depends on you...



What we want from God... is kindness

We are dependent on His kindness

Matthew 6:9-13

Our ***Father in heaven***, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and ***forgive*** us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And ***lead*** us not into temptation, but ***deliver*** us from evil.



What Jesus embodied... is kindness

- our hope in this world

Titus 3:4-6

But when *the goodness and loving kindness of God* our Saviour appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy... whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Luke 10:38 ...Jesus went about *doing good*



What the world wants from us... is kindness

God's kind of love

Luke 6:35-38

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, ***for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.***

Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful: ...forgive... [and] give...



What the world wants from us... is kindness

God's love

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches.
Whoever **abides** in me and I in him, he
it is that bears much fruit, for apart
from me you can do nothing.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is ...**kindness**



What the world needs now...

