



45. Kindness and truth

Here's some wisdom from Proverbs 3:3, "*Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.*"

Kindness in this verse means lovingkindness, mercy, and goodness. And truth means trustworthiness, reliability, and faithfulness to the truth. Tie these two things as jewelry around your neck. Make them visible to the world. Write them on your heart. Establish kindness and truth as non-negotiable commitments of your heart.

Someone treated me with unkindness and untruthfulness. I was lied to and treated with aggressive hostility. It was tempting to think the world has changed. However, many years before the birth of

Jesus, Solomon wrote, *“I have seen under the sun that in the place of justice there is wickedness and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness,”* Ecclesiastes 3:16. Sounds like today. But, unkindness and untruthfulness have been in the world ever since Cain killed Abel and lied to God about it, Genesis 4:8-9. These things aren’t new. So how should we react when we are mistreated and lied to by others? We must not let the wicked world squeeze us into its mold. *“Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God,”* Romans 12:19. *“See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good,”* that’s 1 Thessalonians 5:15. It isn’t easy to be righteous in response to the wickedness of the world. But we must respond righteously. Walk in kindness in our unkind world. Walk in integrity in our dishonest world. *“Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.”*