

Pastor Sue's Message, September, 2019

"When I was young, I admired clever people. As I grew old, I came to admire kind people."(Abraham Joshua Heschel). [Abraham Joshua Heschel (January 11, 1907 – December 23, 1972) was a Polish-born, American [rabbi](#) and one of the leading [Jewish](#) theologians of the 20th century.] I must be getting old since I *totally* agree with what the rabbi said.

It doesn't take any effort to be self-centered, does it? Why is that? Because "there is a root of sinful self-interest in us." (Galatians 5:16, The Message) But kindness is different. It doesn't come naturally. You've got to choose to be kind over our nature: being self-centered. That's probably why the apostle Paul says kindness is one of the fruits exhibited by a life led by the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22)

There are countless stories about how one soul's kind words, kind smile, or kind action to another soul made a difference; sometimes from death to life. "O mortal, what does the LORD require of you? Do justice, show kindness, walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). The words of the prophet, Micah, are more poignant today than ever before in light of what is going on from the borders of nations to personal comments posted on Facebook or Tweeter and between.

Friends, we don't have a magic wand to fix all problems that make our hearts heavy and broken. But we have the power to choose kindness over being self-centered/interested towards others because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. And being kind to one another surely makes this world a better place. So, by the help of the Holy Spirit, may we choose to show kindness to others whenever we have an opportunity to do that in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

In Christ,

Pastor Sue