

## One Kind Word

Ecclesiastes 10:12 The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious, but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.

Paul states the same exhortation in a different way in Ephesians 4:29 “Don't let corrupt communication or unwholesome speech come out of your mouth but that which is good to edify to build up to impart grace to the hearers”.

The NLT says “Don't use foul or abusive language but everything you say be good and helpful so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them”. Dear Paul, and I believe the writer of Proverbs, is saying keep your words helpful and filled with grace.

You know , Mr. Rogers, in the world according to Mister Rogers, said imagine what our real neighbors would be like if each of us offered, as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person. There have been so many stories about the lack of courtesy the impatience of today's world, road-rage, even restaurant rage. Sometimes all it takes is one kind word to nourish another person. Think of the ripple effect that can be created when we nourish someone. One kind empathetic word has a wonderful way of turning into many.

I'm aware the bad news sells bad behavior sells, unkind words sell. I read Facebook posts that are hurtful, and then I scratch my head at the cover photo of this page that says, “In a world where you could be anything being kind”. When staff are a bit surly, be kind. Former supporters turn against you, be kind and speak graciously.

I remember this poem by Edward Markham and I close with it  
He drew a circle that shut me out--  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.  
But Love and I had the wit to win:  
We drew a circle that took him in!

You ponder that.