

YOUR KINDNESS LEDGER

Ephesians 4:32 ... “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

A ledger is a book in which you record financial events. You might keep a ledger for your farm in which you write your plowing, seed, fertilizer, and harvest costs, and then the income from your crop. If you run a Sari Sari store you might use a ledger to keep track of your purchases and your income. Without a ledger you might pay more for the supplies you purchase, than you receive back in the items you sell. A ledger is a good way to conduct business and make sure you are really making a profit. But, a ledger is a terrible tool if you use it to track your kindness to others.

God offers us unlimited kindness, love and forgiveness, even to the extent of sending his son, Jesus, to die for us. In today's verse we are told to be kind, tenderhearted and forgiving to one another in the same manner God is kind to us. We are not told to keep track of the kind deeds we do for others, and we are not told to limit our kindness. But that is exactly how some people live. They keep a mental record of the moments when someone treated them kindly, to make sure they are kind to the other person in the same proportion. Their kindness ledger helps them pay-back their kindness debts on a one-to-one ratio. For such people, the balance sheet is very important. They are careful to pay-back the same level of kindness they have been shown, but not show more kindness than that.

I asked someone recently if they had heard from a certain mutual friend. I was told, “I called that person several times, but he doesn't call me, so I quit calling him.” Another person told me she had stopped helping someone, because that person rarely offered to help her. These people are keeping mental registers or ledgers of the acts of kindness they show, to make certain they are not TOO kind to others. Can you imagine what your life would be like if God was only as kind to you, as you are to him?

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