

Saturday March 21 ~ Compassion and Kindness ~
1 Corinthians 10:1-3

Paul wrote to his friends at the church in Corinth to remind them of the issues that the children of Israel had faced when they became distracted by selfishness and vanity. One of the greatest temptations that we face as Christians today is to lapse into the never-ending tirade of meanness, criticism, and disrespect for one another. Paul reminds us that Christ came and that He leads us to compassion and kindness. Our downfall as a Christian community comes when we are more concerned about our neighbor's political rhetoric than we are about loving and respecting one another in spite of our differences.

Compassion and kindness are exactly what Jesus Christ practiced and preached. He accepted people for who they were and challenged us to love them anyway. His resurrection at Easter serves to prove to us that the values He taught are powerful beyond the grave and are eternal. Trusting in Christ to lead us to compassion and kindness is the magic of Easter.

Jimmy Stokes is a retired college chemistry professor, college football coach, high school principal, and association executive. He and his wife Patricia have been members of Madison First UMC since 1996. He co-teaches the Easter Sunday School Class with his friend Tommy Richardson.

1 Corinthians 10:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

Warnings From Israel's History

10 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food