

As a Christian in today's society, it is important that we do all we can to reflect God's love to the world. Of course, God's most gracious gift was the life of His son who came to die and save us. During his life, Jesus was the type of person that everyone should strive to be. Although I often fail, I try my best to lead by example as Jesus did.

Compassion, kindness, and love are three major components of Jesus' life that I make an effort to manifest. He was compassionate towards outcasts who were despised by others. Jesus treated tax collectors with kindness when no one else would. To this day, He loves every member of the human race without question, even when we don't deserve it. Jesus was the embodiment of how we should live our lives today.

As Jesus showed compassion to individuals the rest of society ignored, I seek to do the same. I currently work as a teller at Bank of America and due to existing widespread economic hardship, people seldom show any amount of compassion to banks as a whole. When people come up to my window, I always give them a nice, genuine smile and greet them warmly. If someone tells me about their struggles I do my best to listen and be open to their situation. It is my goal to make every customer's banking experience exceed their preconceived expectations. Even if they still harbor contempt for banks and take their frustrations out on me, I make an effort to ensure they know there is one teller who cares about the situation they are in.

Jesus' ability to show kindness to others is truly amazing. How can one be kind to people that the rest of society considers offensive? Jesus was the ultimate example of how we should look past a person's flaws to see the good person inside that deserves kindness. At the school I am attending, Portland State University, there are many people who hand out fliers or encourage people to sign petitions on some pretty controversial

subjects. I have noticed quite often when these people ask questions of other students most of them either completely disregard the offer or are very rude and just tell them abruptly "I don't care". When I am approached, even if I do not agree with the perspective they are petitioning for, I let them know I would prefer to do some research before I sign so I can make an informed decision. Even if I decide to say "no thank you" to the offer I hope they feel that at least one person showed them kindness in doing so.

Love is by far the most important emotion that Jesus illustrates for us. How He can love the whole human race without question or requirement never ceases to amaze me. Jesus has taught me that love is a gift that should be given freely and often. In my daily life, I use Jesus' example when expressing love to all of my friends and family and loving my wife like Jesus loved the Church. I can not help but notice that Jesus did not often interact with members of his immediate family yet He treated everyone He came in contact with as if they were His brother or sister. If the people in Jesus' day only knew at the time of His crucifixion He was hanging on that cross and dying for our sake, perhaps He would have been treated with the love and respect that He gave to so many others. Instead, Jesus was beaten and belittled and hung on a tree all the while liberating us from our sins so we can live free.

In a society where it is often difficult to love and care for others, I do my best to make a difference. It is all the little things that matter like holding open doors, giving up my seat on the bus to someone when there is no place left to sit, or just saying a few kind words or even hello to someone I see looking lonely – these simple acts of kindness can make a world of difference. Certainly loving my wife and showing her everyday is a true attempt to live like Jesus and reflect Him into this world.