

# The Importance of a Necklace

What are the kinds of things that a person *wears around the neck*? Aside from simple jewelry, some wear a necklace with a special locket, or perhaps a cross, or a ring, etc. These objects represent things of value such as a cherished memory, a strong belief, or a valued relationship.

What are the kinds of things that are *written on the heart*? These are not things that are merely memorized. They are etched onto the mind and heart as a permanent reminder of something of great importance. Things written on the heart affect the way a person thinks, affect day-to-day decisions, affect behavior and speech.

Do you know what God wants you to *wear around your neck*? Do you know what God desires for you to have *etched onto your heart*? Do you know the things that God regards as having the deepest meaning and value that should mold your character and define your being?

**Do not let kindness and truth leave you;  
Bind them around your neck,  
Write them on the tablet of your heart.**

--Proverbs 3:3

The word 'kindness' in this verse is more often translated 'lovingkindness.' It comes from a Hebrew love word that is connected to

the idea of 'covenant.' God's lovingkindness, or *covenant love*, is his steadfast love which is demonstrated by his commitment to his promises.

When the Hebrew word 'truth' is paired with lovingkindness it generally carries the idea of

'loyalty.' With respect to God, it is his *loyalty* to his covenant promises.

In His declaration of His divine nature, God revealed Himself as "abounding in lovingkindness and truth." (Exodus 34:6) He extended his love to his people because of his promises and his undying loyalty to his covenant. It is His nature.

*God's lovingkindness and truth* should give us insight

into Solomon's words. With respect to man, *lovingkindness and truth* refer to man's commitment to the covenant he has made with God. Man's commitment is expressed through his holiness toward God and his love and kindness toward his fellow man. His loyalty is demonstrated through an undying devotion to God throughout life regardless of life's difficulties and temptations.

What is it that you *wear around your neck*?

What is *etched onto your heart*?

What is it that truly defines your character?

