

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. We are looking again this morning at “Bad and Good Habits,” paying particular attention to “good habits” or we may call “good fruit.”
2. Please take God’s Word and turn with me to Galatians 5:22.
3. We have already looked at “love, joy, peace, patience.”
4. Now we are looking at “kindness.”
5. Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB) says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
23 gentleness, self-control; against such  
things there is no law.”

6. All of us have experienced kindness.
7. We have even shown kindness.
8. But how is kindness defined here in this passage?
9. As the other 8 listed, this one too is “of the Spirit.”
10. Kindness is how we are to treat one another.
11. And when we walk by the means of the Spirit we will be kind in addition to loving, joyful, peaceful, patient as well as the rest.

# LESSON

## I. The Definition of Kindness

- A. The word that Paul uses for “kindness” is the Greek word *Chrēstotēs*
- B. It is “tender concern for others”<sup>1</sup>
- C. “It is a state of being that includes the attributes of loving affection, sympathy, friendliness, patience, pleasantness, gentleness, and goodness.”<sup>2</sup>
- D. It is a “quality shown in the way a person speaks and acts. It is more

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, John F., Jr. Galatians. Chicago: Moody Press, 1983. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

<sup>2</sup> Elwell, Walter A., and Philip Wesley Comfort. Tyndale Bible dictionary 2001 : 773. Print. Tyndale Reference Library.

volitional than emotional.”<sup>3</sup>

E. William Barclay says kindness “helps.”<sup>4</sup>

F. Chrestotes is “always sweet, kind, mild, full of graciousness.”<sup>5</sup>

G. But we must understand that “It has nothing to do with weakness or lack of conviction but is the genuine desire of a believer to treat others gently, just as the Lord treats him.”<sup>6</sup>

Notice some example(s)...

## II. The Example of Kindness

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., Elwell

<sup>4</sup> *The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians*. Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster John Knox Press, 1976. Print. The Daily Study Bible Series.

<sup>5</sup> Lenski, R. C. H. *The Interpretation of St. Paul's Epistles to the Galatians, to the Ephesians and to the Philippians*. Columbus, O.: Lutheran Book Concern, 1937. Print.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., MacArthur, Galatians.

- A. Joseph wanted Pharaoh's butler to show kindness by remembering him to Pharaoh (Gn 40:14).

Genesis 40:1-14 (NASB) Then it came about after these things, the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt. 2 Pharaoh was furious with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. 3 So he put them in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, in the jail, the same place where Joseph was imprisoned. 4 The captain of the bodyguard put Joseph in charge of them, and he took care of them; and they were in confinement for some time. 5 Then the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt, who were confined in jail, both

had a dream the same night, each man with his own dream and each dream with its own interpretation. 6 When Joseph came to them in the morning and observed them, behold, they were dejected. 7 He asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in confinement in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?" 8 Then they said to him, "We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell it to me, please." 9 So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "In my dream, behold, there was a vine in front of me; 10 and on the vine were three branches. And as it was budding, its blossoms came out, and its clusters produced ripe grapes. 11 Now Pharaoh's cup was in

my hand; so I took the grapes and squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I put the cup into Pharaoh's hand." 12 Then Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: the three branches are three days; 13 within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office; and you will put Pharaoh's cup into his hand according to your former custom when you were his cupbearer. 14 Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house.

Not only do we see Joseph's request for kindness but...

B. Rahab requested kind treatment from Israel for her protection of the two spies who had come into her home (Jos 2:12).

Joshua 2:8-13 (NASB) Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, 9 and said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. 10 For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11 When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the Lord



your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. 12 Now therefore, please swear to me by the Lord, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you also will deal kindly with my father's household, and give me a pledge of truth, 13 and spare my father and my mother and my brothers and my sisters, with all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death."

- C. Before he attacked Amalek, Saul asked the Kenites to leave the Amalekite territory, not wanting to kill them along with the Amalekites because of the kindness they had shown Israel when Israel came up from Egypt (1 Sm 15:6).

1 Samuel 15:6 (NASB) Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, go down from

among the Amalekites, so that I do not destroy you with them; for you showed kindness to all the sons of Israel when they came up from Egypt.” So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

- D. David commended the men of Jabesh-gilead for the kindness they had shown Saul in giving his body a decent burial (2 Sm 2:5).

2 Samuel 2:5-7 (NASB) David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead, and said to them, “May you be blessed of the Lord because you have shown this kindness to Saul your lord, and have buried him. 6 Now may the Lord show lovingkindness and truth to you; and I also will show this

goodness to you, because you have done this thing. 7 Now therefore, let your hands be strong and be valiant; for Saul your lord is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.”

- E. Jonathan requested “unfailing kindness” of David so that he would not be killed (1 Sm 20:14–15).

1 Samuel 20:14-15 (NASB) If I am still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness of the Lord, that I may not die? 15 You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever, not even when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.”

F. David extended this kindness to Jonathan's son by granting him the right to eat at the king's table (2 Sm 9:1–7).

2 Samuel 9:1-7 (NASB) Then David said, "Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" 2 Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David; and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." 3 The king said, "Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet." 4 So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of

Machir the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar.”  
5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. 6 Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, “Mephibosheth.” And he said, “Here is your servant!” 7 David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly.”

- G. Paul reminded the Thessalonians that, even though he was an apostle, he “proved to be gentle among [them], as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her

- own children” (1 Thess. 2:6–7).
- H. Jesus’ kindness is the believer’s example when “some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them ... Jesus said, ‘Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these’” (Matt. 19:13–14).
- I. On another occasion He said, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls” (Matt. 11:28–29).

J. Just as their Lord is kind, His servants are commanded not to “be quarrelsome, but [to] be kind to all” (2 Tim. 2:24).

### III. **God’s Kindness Leads Sinners to Repentance**

A. Romans 2:4 (NASB) Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

B. Titus 3:4-6 (NASB) But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the

Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

#### **IV. God is Kind**

- A. The Psalmist rejoiced, “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is kind (χρηστός, chrēstos), his love endures forever” (Ps 106:1)
- B. Psalm 34:8 (NASB) O taste and see that the Lord is good. (kind) (chrestos)
- C. 2 Samuel 9:3 (NASB) The king said, “Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?” And Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet.”



- D. In the N.T. it is always Paul who speaks of the kindness of God, a kindness that is manifested in Christ Jesus (Eph 2:7).<sup>7</sup>
- E. Ephesians 2:5-7 (NASB) even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

## V. Believers Are to Be Kind

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<sup>7</sup> Boles, Kenneth L. Galatians & Ephesians. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1993. Print. The College Press NIV Commentary.

- A. Colossians 3:12 (NASB) So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
- B. Peter said in 2 Peter 1:7 (NASB) in adding certain virtues to your faith, “and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.”

The Reformer Martin Luther said, “Christians must not be sharp and bitter, but gentle, mild, courteous and fair spoken, and such as make others to delight in their company. They can wink at other men’s faults, and will be well contented to yield and give place to others, contented to bear with those who are froward and intractable, as someone said: “Thou must know the

manners of thy friend, but thou must not hate them.” Such a one was our Savior Christ. It is said of Peter that he wept often as he remembered the sweet mildness of Christ. It is an excellent virtue and most necessary in every kind of life.”<sup>8</sup>

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Are you kind?
2. Do you have tender concern for other believers or are you sharp and bitter?
3. Proverbs 15:1 (NASB) A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
4. Philippians 4:5 (NASB) Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

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<sup>8</sup> Commentary on Galatians. electronic ed. Simpsonville SC: Christian Classics Foundation, 1996. Print.

5. The way to kindness is through yielding to the Spirit.
6. As you yield you collectively manifest all 9 attitudes of the Spirit in your behavior.
7. Do you know Jesus?
8. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30 (NASB)  
Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29  
Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

9. When people see you do they see Jesus in your life?

10. Repent and believe in Him today.

11. Let's pray.