

**Subject: *Bearing Spiritual Fruit – KINDNESS***

**Scripture: *Galatians 5:22-23***

The fruit of the Spirit includes nine character qualities that are found in all true believers. It is the proof of real conversion and new birth. Where there is spiritual life there will be spiritual fruit.

Christ said you can know a tree by its fruit. He said to His disciples: I am the vine and you are the branches. Branches that remain in me bear fruit. Branches that do not bear fruit are set aside and thrown into the fire. That is a clear picture of the difference between a believer and an unbeliever.

Paul wrote about the works of the Holy Spirit in salvation and sanctification. He wrote about the works of the flesh (unredeemed human nature) and the fruit of the Spirit (the character that the Holy Spirit produces in a believer). In Galatians 5 Paul wrote about walking in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, living by the Spirit, and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. He mentions nine kinds of fruit to represent the qualities produced by the Spirit in a believer's life. We have examined the fruit of love, joy, peace, and patience (long-suffering). Today we will look at the fruit of kindness.

The Greek word *chrestotes*, translated “kindness” or “gentleness” (KJV) is found ten times in the NT. It is a tender concern for others, a sensitivity to the needs of others. It is the genuine desire of a believer to treat others gently, just as the Lord treats him. Kindness is the flip side of patience. Patience endures abuse from others, but kindness repays evil with good.

### **1. Kindness is a character quality of God**

*Jeremiah 9:24* But let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, says the LORD.

#### **A. God shows kindness to all people**

*Luke 6:35* But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

#### **B. God shows kindness to all sinners before salvation**

*Romans 2:4* Do you despise the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

#### **C. God shows kindness through Christ in salvation**

**Titus 3:3-5** <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit

**Ephesians 2:7** That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

We will be trophies of God's grace and kindness through all eternity.

#### D. God's kindness is not to be taken for granted

**Romans 11:22** Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

God's goodness (kindness) is found three times in this verse. God first showed kindness to the Jews, but His judgment (severity) fell when they kept rejecting Him. God then showed kindness to Gentiles (non-Jews), but we must not forsake or reject His kindness or His judgment will fall on us as it did on Israel.

### 2. Kindness is a character quality of God's children

This is one of the qualities that God's Spirit produces. It is the kindness of God flowing into and out of the Christian. God expects to see it in the lives of His children, and we should expect to see it.

**1 Corinthians 13:4** Love suffers long, and is kind; love envies not; love vaunts not itself, is not puffed up.

**Colossians 3:12** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.

Henry Drummond: "The greatest thing a man can do for His Heavenly Father is to be kind to some of His other children."

Kindness is a key ingredient of all relationships, especially in marriage and the family.

**Ephesians 4:31-32** <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: <sup>32</sup> And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

### 3. Kindness is revealed in our words and deeds

When someone is kind-hearted it will come out in their words.

**Proverbs 31:26** She opens her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

Kindness is best known by what it does. Let's look at one example from the Old Testament and another example from the New.

**2 Samuel 9:1-7** – David's kindness to Mephibosheth  
This is a picture of Christ and His kindness toward us.

**Luke 10:25-37** – The Samaritan's kindness to the needy traveler  
This is another picture of Christ and His kindness toward us. As the story ends Jesus says, "Go and do likewise."