



The Fruit of the Spirit

Kindness





Kindness

Defined



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- Greek: *chrestos, chrestotes, chresteuomai*
- **Vine** – “serviceable, good, pleasant” (of things), “good, gracious, kind” (of persons)...to be kind... “goodness of heart, kindness” (p. 343)
- **Thayer** – “fit for use, useful; virtuous, good...manageable, i.e., mild, pleasant (opp. to harsh, hard, sharp, bitter);...of persons, kind, benevolent...gracious...moral goodness, integrity...benignity, kindness;...to show oneself mild, be kind, use kindness.” (pp. 671-72).



Defined: What we learn

- Includes ideas of usefulness, serviceable, fit for use.
- This usefulness is enhanced in that it is the opposite of being harsh, hard, sharp, or bitter
 - Important for the cause of Christ
 - Some are self-defeating, even when trying to do good
 - These act contrary to godly wisdom – Jas. 3:17-18



Defined: Use

- Kindness always acts in a way truly suitable for the situation – Matt. 11:28-30
- Kindness includes moral excellence – 1 Cor. 15:33-34; Rom. 3:10-12
- Never contradicts what is righteous and true.
- Kindness will never “do evil that good may come” – Rom. 3:8



Kindness

Taught by God's dealings with us

God's Kindness toward Us:

God's Plan to Save Sinners

- The depth of God's kindness – Titus 3:3-7
- His kindness toward **us** shows the world the exceeding riches of His grace – Eph. 2:4-7
- Our lives are to be *divinely* changed by this kindness – 1 Pet. 2:1-3; Rom. 2:3-4; Rom. 11:21-22



The Fruit of Kindness in our Lives



Kindness is Necessary for...

- The proper expression of love – 1 Cor. 13:4
- Proper interaction with brethren – Eph. 4:31-32
- Acceptable dealings with the unkind and undeserving – Lk. 6:33, 35-36



Cultivating Kindness Requires...

- Focusing on Jesus' example of kindness:
 - In self-sacrifice given in the face of adversity – 1 Pet. 2:21-24
 - Given willingly and not begrudgingly to the undeserving – Jn. 10:17-18
 - In being conscious of the spiritual worth of others – Mt. 19:13-14; Rom. 5:7-8
 - In being understanding of the weaknesses of others – Heb. 4:15-16
- Being aware of how kindness has benefitted your life – Matt. 18:23-35