

Fruit on the Vine: Kindness Galatians 5:16-24

INTRODUCTION

For this morning, we turn our attention to the spiritual fruit of **kindness**. Today's fruit of the Spirit is such an important one and one that is sadly lacking in our world today. **In a world of cynicism, criticism, sarcasm and scorn, it sometimes seems people have forgotten how to be kind to each other.** And the sad thing is that although it is easy to be unkind to others, it's really not that hard to be kind either. But when our focus in on ourselves, we either just don't take the time or we don't make the effort.

Kindness is not just the way you feel towards others, but how you act towards them. A person who is kindhearted but never acts on those feelings in his heart is not actually kind.

This world needs a lot more kindness in it. Your life needs a lot more kindness. The people around you need a lot more kindness.

Let's look at the fruit of kindness together.

I. Kindness: _____

Here's my **definition: Kindness is the Spirit-produced disposition of doing _____ to others with a _____ desire to _____ them.**

Basically, kindness means a way of thinking that leads to doing thoughtful deeds for others.

II. Kindness: _____

A. Kindness and _____

**1. God's kindness is part of His _____
(Exodus 34:6; Psalm 136:1)**

**2. God's kindness leads us to _____
(Romans 2:4)**

**3. God's kindness is _____ and
_____ (Ephesians 2:6-9; Titus 3:4-7)**

**4. God's kindness should _____ us
to be kind to _____ (Luke 6:35-36)**

III. Kindness: _____

What hinders kindness?

- _____ **expressing itself in arrogance, unforgiveness and judgement and many other sorts of sins**

IV. Kindness: _____

A. _____ **God's kindness to you in Christ**
(Ephesians 2:7, 4:32)

B. _____ **a kind word to someone today**
(Proverbs 12:25)

C. _____ **God's promises for those who are kind** **(Proverbs 11:17, 19:17)**

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this **morning**? God's very character is marked by his loving-kindness towards us. Without God's kindness, we would all be lost. God has been so kind to you in so many ways. **His greatest kindness was sending his Son to die for you so you could be saved. God has been so kind to us. How can we not be kind to each other?**

By way of application, please consider the following **(Kindness Self-Examination Questionnaire)**:

- **Does the kindness I show to others reflect God's kindness to me? Examples?**
- **Do I seek to gain from the kindness I show, or is it pure kindness? How do I know?**
- **Do my kind acts have the components of mercy, love and compassion? How so?**
- **When I am truly able, how much do I sacrifice for others instead of showing selfishness?**