



**THE FRUIT OF KINDNESS**  
**Fruit-Full | Part 5**  
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October 27, 2024

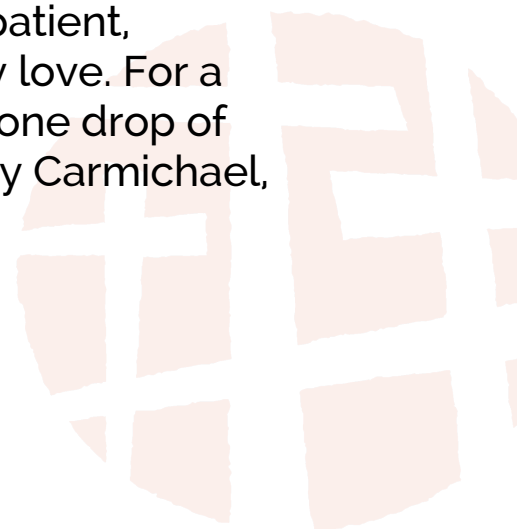
With the hotly contested presidential election just around the corner coupled with the toxic cesspool social media has become, many of us find ourselves longing for less hate and more kindness. That's why you don't want to miss this Sunday's message as we explore the Fruit of Kindness. We're going to explore the kindness of God and why He wants this virtue to set us apart as His followers. The message will both challenge and encourage you, but most of all, instill you with hope that God's ways are truly the best.

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*But the fruit of the Spirit is... kindness...* Galatians 5.22

"If a sudden jar can cause me to speak an impatient, unloving word, then I know nothing of Calvary love. For a cup brimful of sweet water cannot spill even one drop of bitter water, however suddenly jolted." — Amy Carmichael, *Candles in the Dark*

Brimful cup



## ***1. WHAT IS KINDNESS?***

"...kindness conveys the idea of being adaptable to others. Rather than harshly require everyone else to adapt to our own needs and desires. When chrestotes is working in a believer, he seeks to become adaptable to the needs of those who are around him." - Rick Renner, Sparkling Gems from the Greek

"Chesed means the ability to get right inside the other person's skin until we can see things with his eyes, think things with his mind, and feel things with his feelings." - William Barclay, Daily Study Bible commentary on Matthew

"Hesed is driven not by duty or legal obligation, but by a bone-deep commitment - a loyal, selfless love that motivates a person to do voluntarily that no one has a right to expect or ask of them...They willingly pour themselves out for the good of someone else. It's actually the kind of love we find most fully expressed in Jesus. In a nutshell, hesed is the gospel lived out." - Carolyn James

"Be kind for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle."  
- Philo of Alexandria

"I don't think I ever detested myself more than I did at that moment. Another human being was screaming to be heard, and in desperation had turned to a cold stranger who was more interested in a novel than in the real-life drama at her elbow. She talked numbly and steadily until we boarded the plane, then found her seat in another section. As I hung up my coat, I heard her plaintive voice say to her seat companion, 'I'll bet it's cold in Chicago.'" - Erma Bombeck

## 2. THE AMAZING LOVING-KINDNESS OF GOD

*Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51.1(NKJV)*

God is kind all the time

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136.1*

*The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. Psalm 145.17*

God is kind to everybody

*For he causes his sun to rise on evil and good and sends his rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Matthew 5.45*

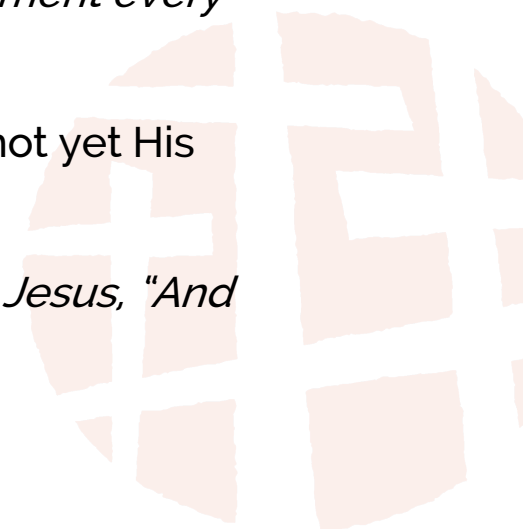
God's kindness draws us back to Him

*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? Romans 2.4*

*...act kindly... kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time. James 2.12-14*

God showed his kindness when we were not yet His friends

*But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Luke 10.29*



"Your neighbor is the person right in front of you with a need in their life." - Steve Sjogren, Conspiracy of Kindness

### ***3. BECOMING MORE KIND AS GOD INTENDS***

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

- Henry Drummond

❑ In the Christian life, you are something before you do something

"A Christian is something before he does something."

- Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones

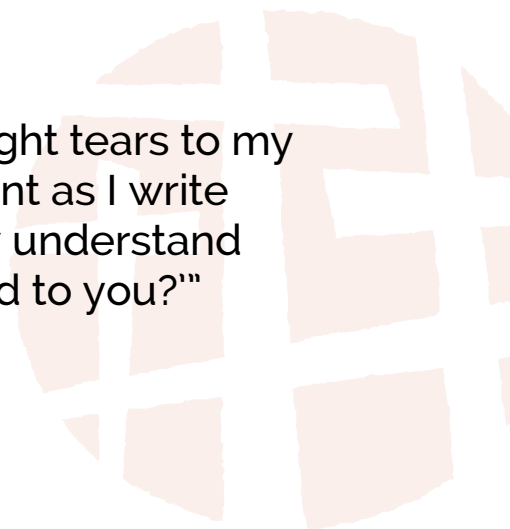
*Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.* Luke 6.35

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.* Ephesians 4.32

❑ Your ability to receive kindness will impact your ability to give kindness

"Then she said something that suddenly brought tears to my eyes. There are tears in my eyes at this moment as I write these words, though I'm not sure I completely understand why. She asked, 'Why won't you let me be kind to you?'"

- Michael Card



*Grace can't be earned, but it can be resisted.*

❑ How well we love is determined by how we love the unlovable

*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4.31-32*

❑ Being unkind pushes people away while being kind draws them in

"Kindness makes a person attractive. If you would win the world, melt it, do not hammer it."

- Alexander Maclaren

"Oh no, God please, No. Please don't make me witness to this man. Not now. I'll do it on the plane. Then I heard it..." I don't want you to witness to him. I want you to brush his hair." – Beth Moore

*...so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3.17*

"I got on my own flight, sobs choking my throat, wondering how many opportunities just like that one had I missed along the way...all because I didn't want people to think I was strange. God didn't send me to that old man. He sent that old man to me." – Beth Moore



## *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

1. Kindness is other-centered. The Old Testament word (Hebrew - Chesed or Hesed) and the New Testament word (Greek - Chrestotes), both have the same idea of caring for the needs of others. Look at the following definitions again...

"When chrestotes is working in a believer, he seeks to become adaptable to the needs of those who are around him." - Rick Renner

"Chesed means the ability to get right inside the other person's skin until we can see things with his eyes, think things with his mind, and feel things with his feelings." - William Barclay, Daily Study Bible commentary on Matthew

"They willingly pour themselves out for the good of someone else." - Carolyn James

When and in what ways have you experienced this FROM others? When and in what ways have you done this FOR others?

2. God is kind all the time and God is kind to all people. In what ways have you experienced the kindness of God? How does God show His kindness to all people everywhere?

3. What were your biggest takeaways from today's message?

4. Why did the lawyer try to limit the definition of neighbor? How did Jesus correct his erroneous ideas? Do people today still try to limit the definition of neighbor to those most like themselves?

5. A woman asked Michael Card, "Why won't you let me be kind to you?" It's an important question. Additionally, it speaks to this idea of why we resist grace. Do you have trouble receiving kindness from others? Do you struggle with the idea of grace?

6. It's not our actions but our reactions that are the best barometer of where we actually are in Christ. It's our reactions that reveal what's really going on inside us. To use the words of Amy Carmichael, "What fills your cup?" When life knocks you down, bumps you, inconveniences you, how do you react? What spills from your cup when you get bumped?

