

# Lesson 6

## The Fruit of the Spirit – Kindness and Goodness

*Galatians 5:22-23*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

1. In your own words define kindness.
2. Using a dictionary, define kindness
3. Look up and list as many synonyms for kindness that you can
4. Look up and list as many antonyms for kindness that you can
5. How did your research change your definition of kindness?

Kindness is a characteristic of God.

*Read Titus 3:3-5*

1. How does Paul describe mankind?
2. What evidence do you see in the world to support Paul's claims?
3. What evidence do you see in your own life?
4. Notice the word "but" in verse 4 and describe the action God took as a result of man's condition?

5. What character traits of God motivate His actions?

**For Discussion:**

A. Briefly share how you came to know Christ

*Read Romans 2:4 NIV*

B. What part does kindness play in leading a person to Christ?

C. Share a time in your life when you experienced undeserved kindness from God

*Read Ephesians 2:7*

1. What do you think the phrase “ages to come” refers to?

2. What will God do in the ages to come?

3. How is His kindness described?

Kindness is a characteristic God desires to develop within believers.

*Colossians 3:12*

*Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;*

1. What imagery do you think Paul is using with the phrase, “put on”?
2. Describe what you put on this morning
3. Since we are capable of putting on our shirt and shoes we should also be capable of putting on kindness. What part does planning in advance play to wearing kindness?
4. Kindness is also a fruit. Fruit is not gained through work but growth. What things can we participate in that will increase our growth and consequently our kindness?

### **For Discussion:**

- A. Share a time when someone showed you unusual kindness
- B. Share a time when you showed someone else unusual kindness
- C. Share some ways that you think kindness could be shown to others as a means of sharing the gospel with them
- D. Read the story of the Good Samaritan recorded in Luke 10:30-37. How do the actions of the Samaritan illustrate true kindness?

E. Share your thoughts on the importance of Christians being kind

- To one another
- To the unbelieving world
- To those who are not kind to them

### **For Discussion:**

A. Think of a way you can express this same type of kindness to someone else this week. Share your thoughts.

*Read Matthew 5:38-42*

1. What do these verse teach about showing exceptional kindness toward others?
2. The Bible teaches us that King Saul was jealous of David and tried to kill him on several occasions but when David had the opportunity to retaliate he restrained himself.
3. How does David's story illustrate true kindness?
4. How can you apply his lesson to your current situations?

# The Fruit of the Spirit - Goodness

*Galatians 5:22-23*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

The Greek word translated goodness speaks of moral uprightness and doing what is right.

1. Examine the following verse and share your insights regarding goodness

- *Romans 3:9-12*
  
- *Romans 3:23*
  
- *Mark 10:18*

## For Discussion:

According to the Bible everyone is a sinner and no one is morally good apart from Christ.

- A. What evidence do you see in your own life that proves this point?
  
  
  
  
  
- B. What evidences do you see in the world around you that support this?

1. Since we are not good by ourselves God sent His Son into the world as our savior. What do the following verses teach about God making sinners righteous?

- *Romans 5:19*
  
  
  
  
- *2 Corinthians 5:21*

- *Romans 10:4*

Israel got into a lot of trouble because they decided they were the ones who determined right from wrong.

Read *Judges 21:25*

2. How has this same ideology influenced our culture?

3. Share a time when you thought you were right only to find out you were wrong.

### **For Discussion:**

A. How will allowing God's word to determine what is right help you to make good decisions and treat others properly?

B. What do the following verses teach us about doing what is right?

*James 4:17 ESV*

*So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.*

*Deuteronomy 6:18 ESV*

*And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers*

*Job 42:7 ESV*

*After the Lord had spoken these words to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has*

1. Perhaps the biggest problem in our world today is people thinking they are right. Look at the following scenarios and share how people thinking they are right serves as the cause of the problem

- Religious fanaticism
- Countries in conflict
- Racism
- Marital conflict
- Divorce

2. Look at the same list, how could allowing God's word to determine right and wrong defuse these same issues.

- Religious fanaticism
- Countries in conflict
- Racism
- Marital conflict
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