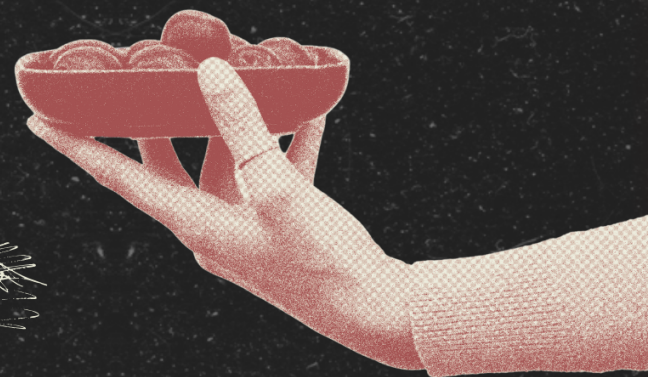


Fruit of the Spirit



LOVE
JOY
PEACE
PATIENCE
KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
SELF-CONTROL



“KINDNESS”

Titus 3:4-5; Proverbs 27:6; Mark 6:30-44

Biblical kindness is much more than simply being nice. While our culture often defines kindness as avoiding offense or affirming others in whatever they choose, Scripture defines kindness as actively seeking another person's highest good, even when it's hard. Sometimes true kindness comforts, but at other times it lovingly confronts, corrects, and ultimately it points people toward Christ. Because kindness is an attribute of God Himself, we must look to Him, not the world, to understand what kindness truly is. Throughout the Old Testament, God's steadfast love (*hesed*) reveals His faithful, merciful, and righteous character. In the New Testament, God's kindness is fully revealed in Jesus Christ. As Titus 3 teaches, the kindness of God "appeared" in the person of Christ, who demonstrated compassion by meeting both the spiritual and physical needs of others. The greatest display of God's kindness is found at the cross, where Christ willingly died for sinners who were His enemies. Having received such undeserved kindness, believers are now called to reflect the character of Christ by lovingly seeking the eternal good of others through both truth and compassionate action, through the Holy Spirit working in them.

// GETTING THE MESSAGE

:: Our culture often defines kindness differently than Scripture. What are some common ideas about kindness today that conflict with the Bible's definition?

// GETTING THE MESSAGE

:: **Read Titus 3:4–7.** What does Paul mean when he says "**the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared**"? Why is this passage foundational for understanding biblical kindness?

:: In the lecture, Jay used the illustration of a doctor treating an injured child. How does this help explain why speaking difficult truths can sometimes be the most loving thing we do?

:: **Read Proverbs 27:6.** How does this verse reinforce the doctor's illustration? When have "faithful wounds" benefited you spiritually?

:: Why is it important that God, not our feelings or culture, defines what kindness is?

:: **Read James 2:14–17.** How does James' teaching help us understand that biblical kindness must be more than good intentions?



// GETTING TO CHRIST

:: **Read Mark 6:30–44.** What stands out to you about Jesus' compassion in this passage? What motivated His actions?

:: Jesus first taught the crowd before feeding them. What does this teach us about the relationship between meeting spiritual needs and meeting physical needs?

// GETTING TO YOU

:: Jesus showed compassion even while He was tired, grieving, and seeking rest. What does His example teach us about putting the needs of others before our own?

:: Why is it sometimes easier to show kindness to friends than to those who oppose or disagree with us? How does the gospel challenge that attitude?



// GETTING TO YOU

:: Since we receive God's kindness before displaying it, how might regular meditation on the gospel transform our relationships, our speech, and our willingness to sacrifice for others?

// GETTING TO OTHERS

:: Looking back over this week's lesson, what is one specific opportunity God has given you, or may give you this week, to display the kindness of Christ?

:: What are some practical ways we can imitate Christ by caring for both the spiritual and physical needs of those around us?

:: How does God's kindness in sending His Son (Titus 3:4-7) provide the model and motivation for sending missionaries to the nations?

