

Cultivating Kindness

(Ephesians 4:32) "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.;



(Colossians 3:12-14) "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."



(1 John 3:16-23) "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

(ACT OF KINDNESS) And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before Him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from Him whatever we ask, because we obey His commandments and do what pleases Him. And this is His commandment, that we should believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us."

Kindness is the medium through which Christ's love becomes tangible through us. It is practicing benevolence and a loving attitude towards others. Kindness is the essence that shows the world that we are a Christian, like the fragrance coming from a flower. It is being convicted with God's Word, and then modeling it to others. Kindness is the subject to the object of who we are in Christ!

Kindness is beyond just being accepting, liberal, or open minded. It is thoughtful consideration to one another, putting ourselves in their shoes. We are called to be kind to enemies (Luke 6:34-35), to strangers (Lev. 19:34), to family (Duet. 22:1) and to outcasts (Life of Jesus). Kindness is not something we confront. It is something we proclaim! We must change our behaviors to reflect Christ's treatment of us in how we treat others, on the road, in our work, school, and family. As society gets more complicated and crowded, kindness will gradually disappear, which makes it increasingly needed. Let us "[Step Up To The Plate](#)" of treating and serving others as Christ would.

Kindness And Goodness Are Related But Are Different

Kindness and Goodness are so closely related that sometimes it is not easy to distinguish between them. These two characteristics which are produced in us by the Holy Spirit have to do with our relationships to others. We usually think of kindness as an expression of love from one person to another, and of goodness as a quality of being pure. In this lesson you will see that the biblical use of these two words is somewhat different from today's more general usage, and that kindness and goodness include many aspects of the expression of love. Without the Spirit of Christ within us, our nature is inclined toward that which is evil and bad. But the Holy Spirit produces in us kindness and goodness, helping us to minister to the world with the love of Jesus.

UNDERSTANDING THE SOURCE OF GOODNESS



Jesus is explicit that no one can be good except God alone; Jesus implies that an absolute moral standard is rooted in the character and nature of God. As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to

inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is Good except God alone." (Mark 10:17-18; Matt 19:16-17; Luke 18:18-19) Thus human beings can only know and realize goodness when one has a personal relationship with God. The apostle Paul reveals this to the Christians in Rome and Ephesus: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another." (Romans 15:13-14) "For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth." (Ephesians 5:8-9) As part of the Fruit of the Spirit, goodness reflects one's faith with the intent of glorifying Jesus Christ to the world and as part of the process of personal sanctification. "To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12) Goodness is not a quality we can manufacture on our own. James 1:17 says, "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights." This certainly includes a life characterized by Goodness.

GOODNESS STEMS FROM LOVE THE GREATEST OF THE GIFTS

THE DILEMMA GOODNESS APART FROM GOD



Set within the contrast of "Deeds Of The **Flesh**" verses "Fruit Of The **Spirit**" (Gal 5:13-26), the attributes of patience, kindness and goodness place a focus on esteeming interpersonal relationships with others. These attributes reflect an abiding faith and the second greatest commandment, "You shall

Our contemporary culture sees that man is good apart from God. Here lies the dilemma. We are born into sin with the knowledge of Good and Evil. We are born apart from God because of sin. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature describes the word "**Flesh**" this way: "**The Physical Body As Functioning Entity**; in Paul's thought Epistles, "All parts of the body constitute a totality known as flesh, which is dominated by sin to such a degree that wherever flesh is, all forms of sin are likewise present, and no good thing can live."

love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31) and fulfills the command Jesus gave to His disciples: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

The Bible makes it clear that humanity did not start out this way. The book of Genesis says that humankind was originally created good and perfect: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness' . . . God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:26-27). Because God is perfect, and because an effect always represents its cause in essence that is, a totally good God can only create good things. (Matthew 7:18) Both Adam and Eve were created good and without sin. But, when Adam and Eve sinned, their nature was corrupted, and that nature was passed along to their offspring. The Bible says that humanity's nature, both the physical and spiritual, were good, yet both were adversely affected by sin. The end result of sin is a nature often referred to as the "**Flesh**" in Scripture—something that opposes God and seeks sinful gratification.

DO NOT GROW WEARY OF DOING GOOD

THE LORD SHOWS US OUR DILEMMA

These Scriptures Sum Up The Importance Of Serving With Love:

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

(Galatians 6:9-10) "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:8-10)

* (Romans 8:5-9) For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Jesus Christ, our perfect example for all the different fruit of the Spirit, was the model and definition of goodness demonstrated by a human being. Now, He sits at the throne of God eager to help us in our lives. Let us all use His example and help to strive to truly grow in the fruit of goodness. God wants the earth to be full of His Goodness. God is Good, and He wants us to grow in the fruit of goodness so we can be like Him.

JESUS, OUR LIVING EXAMPLE

JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR DILEMMA ROMAN 8:8-13



Jesus Christ, our perfect example for all the different fruit of the Spirit, was the model and definition of goodness demonstrated by a human being. Now, He sits at the throne of God eager to help us in our lives. Let us all use His example and help to strive to truly grow in the **Fruit of Goodness**. God wants the earth to be full of His Goodness. God is Good, and He wants us to grow in the fruit of goodness so we can be like Him. Ultimately, God wants us to show goodness because He is Good, and He wants us to be like Him—and to be His children forever.

"The Word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" that is, the Word of faith that we proclaim; because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in Him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on Him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."