

# Fruit of the Spirit - 5, Kindness

1-9-16

## *Love is Kind*

### I. Slide1,2 Intro: *Love is Kind*

- A. Kindness *chrestotes* - The quality of being warmhearted, considerate, humane, gentle, sympathetic. [hesed of the OT]
  - 1. According to Book 2 of **Aristotle's Rhetoric** kindness is defined as **virtue**, as being *"helpfulness towards someone in need, not in return for anything, nor for the advantage of the helper himself, but for that of the person helped"*.
- B. Slide3 I would like to recommend the book, *Love Kindness*, by Barry Corey, Pres. Biola Univ. since 2007.
- C. Who in your life 1st comes to mind, whom is **kind**?

### II. Slide4a KINDNESS IS NOT...

- A. Kindness is never *Harsh*. Sometimes those who present the gospel are **caustic**, **harsh**, they pick fights w/those who hold views hostile to theirs.  
They are *barbed-wire-prickly christians* who pick fights from their personal portable-pulpits, their blogs, or other social media platforms.
  - 1. They start with *unkindness*. Which might come from wanting other christians to *admire their toughness*. **But** this doesn't do anything for our redemptive call to that which is *broken*.
  - 2. Now, we need to stand *courageously* for what is right & true & just. Kindness is not *incompatible* with courage. Kindness embodies courage, **although** courage does not always embody kindness.
- B. Slide4b Kindness is not *niceness*. Niceness is cosmetic. It's bland. *Niceness is keeping an employee in the job, knowing he's no longer the right fit but failing him and the company because you don't have the courage to do the kind thing. Kindness calls you to tell him he's not person for the position and then dignify him in the transition.* pg.xiv Love Kindness
  - 1. Kindness is all over the bible, **but** you won't find *niceness* once.
    - a) Slide5 Harshness - has firm centers & hard edges.
    - b) Weakness - has spongy centers & soft edges.

c) Kindness - has firm centers & soft edges.

C. The church has tried **legalism**, which has been proven very *unattractive*.

The church has tried a **warped form of love** which renders us *saltless*. What we need is His grace and truth *lived out* in relationship with others...which we can also call **kindness**.

### III. Slide6 PS.117

A. Shortest chapter in the bible. **Also** the middle chapter of the bible. (not middle vs.)

1. This Psalm is like the old **Zotz Candy**, *small but explosive!* [fizzy/sour center]
2. **The Reason for this Praise?** The attributes of the Lord are the cause of praise.
3. **Merciful Kindness** – (*hesed*) love, lovingkindness. [*unfailing love* - nlt] **grace** in NT.
  - a) Why didn't he name some other attributes? Why not His **power**, or **justice**?
  - b) Because it's, *the goodness/kindness of God that leads one to repentance*.
4. A reformer said, *Men will never cordially praise God until they are drawn by a foretaste of his goodness*. (Calvin on Ps.117)
  - a) It is **Merciful kindness** & **Truth** that opens the **mouths** of the **spiritual mutes**; They open the **eyes** of the **spiritually blind**; & opens the **ears** to the **spiritual deaf**.

B. One more OT example was in 2 Sam.9:1,3,7 David with Mephibosheth.

### IV. Slide7 ACTS OF KINDNESS?

A. Paul when shipwrecked on the island of Malta, *the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.* Acts 12:2

1. Unbelieving natives were able to show a beautiful **philanthropia** (human quality).
2. **Slide8** We have **Honda** doing **Random Acts of Helpfulness**. *I'm the helpful Honda guy.*
3. Web site **Random acts of Kindness** (RAKtivist = Random Acts of Kindness activist)
4. **Slide9a** Guess what...This Sunday, Nov.13th is...**World Kindness Day**.

The **WKM** (*World Kindness Movement*) is an international movement with no political or religious affiliations. It was formed at a conference in Tokyo in 1997 when Japan brought together like-minded kindness organizations from around

the world. The mission of the WKM is to inspire individuals towards greater kindness and to connect nations to create a kinder world.

- a) Slide9b So how is *the fruit of the Spirit of kindness* different? We are not called to *acts of kindness* but a *life of kindness*.
- B. The Fruit of the Spirit - kindness, in Gal.5, is not a **duty** or an **act**. It's the *natural result* of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives.
  - 1. We **exhale** **kindness** after we **inhale** what's been breathed inside us by the Spirit.
  - 2. *God's kindness leads us to repentance.* Rom.2:4 [goodness nkjv] See, **repentance**, more than anything else, changes lives. And **kindness** leads us there.
- C. Notice it is not the **badness of man** but the **goodness of God** that brings a person to repentance.
  - 1. So, if I live w/**Guilt** on overload, that won't do it?...Nope!
  - 2. How about **Shame** that would make a sailor blush?...Nope!
  - 3. The prodigal came to repentance, not when he thought of his **badness** but of his father's **goodness**.
  - 4. But when he came to himself, he said, How many of my father's hired servants have **bread enough and to spare**, and I perish with hunger. Lk.15:17
    - a) Spurgeon said, *When the dove was weary, she remembered the ark & flew into Noah's hand at once.*

## V. Slide10 RECEIVES ME

- A. Mt.10:40 *He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.*
  - 1. Barry's father, Hugh Corey, nails it when he says, *Jesus modeled in the gospels a receivable life. Love your enemies. Receive a child in Jesus's name. Pray for those persecute you. New slap in cheek, turn the other. Listen to the shunned harlot. Talk to the scorned tax collector. When someone takes your coat, give me shirt. When someone tells you to walk a mile with them, walk 2.*
    - a) This is also what it means to be *a faithful follower*.

2. Hugh to Barry, *if the lives God intersects with mine, don't have the opportunity to receive me, how will they ever know, the love God has for them?*

I've got to live my life so **strangers, friends, the aching, the lonely, family** – they receive me. And through me, they see God's inexhaustible love.

- B. The objective of *the receivable life* is not to be received, **but** to be **receivable**.

1. The goal of *the kind life* is **not** to be **thanked**; it is to be **obedient**.
  - a) Whether someone receives your kindness isn't your concern.
  - b) Just remove the **distance** or **obstacles** that keep others from seeing Jesus w/in us.
2. This **doesn't** mean that by receiving **us**, they receive **forgiveness** for their sins. **But it does** mean that by **receiving us**, they get a taste of what it's like to know **God's boundless and unconditional love**.

- C. *Kindness means taking off the steel-toed boots used to kick Jesus into our culture or to kick heresies out of our brothers and instead walking barefoot, the very position Jesus' disciples took when he wash their feet & told them to do likewise.*

1. The way of kindness is not just having the *right theology*; it's **being** the *right kind of people*.

## VI. Slide11 CLOTHED IN KINDNESS

- A. Col.3:12 MSG *So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline.*

1. What does it mean to you to clothe yourself in kindness?
2. What are some ways you can do that?

- B. *Slide12* 3 ways you can keep kindness wrapped around you all day: with your **words**, with your **actions**, and with your **attitude**.

1. **Words** - what counsel do you have for us in regards to showing kindness with your **words**?
2. **Actions** - what counsel do you have for us in regards to showing kindness with your **actions**?
3. **Attitude** - when someone starts bugging you. When someone is unkind to you.

- a) Job 6:14 *He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.*

## VII. Slide13 KINDNESS IS RADICAL

- A. Kindness is radical. It's brave and daring, fearless and courageous, and at times, kindness is **dangerous**.
  - 1. It's often what happens when we show loving kindness to our enemy, or the outcast, or the unsavory or the unlovely. It's what it looks like when we are kind to *the persecutors of Christians* & not just the *persecuted*.
  - 2. Kindness is risky, revolutionary, unconventional, costly, And hard. Which far all adjectives that define what it truly means to follow Jesus.
- B. Slide14 Micah 6:8 esv says, *what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* (love mercy in nkjv)
  - 1. **Love kindness.** We don't just **do** kindness, We are to **love** kindness.
  - 2. **We do** justice (the firm center) & we **love** kindness (the soft edges).
    - a) God expect both from us. **And** we should do both with equal passion while *walking humbly with God.*
- C. Slide15 For followers of Jesus this is **not** an **option** but a **mandate**, **not** an **occasion** but a **lifestyle**.
- D. We said last week, God's **Goodness/kindness** may refer to how He overlooks our **Past** sins; & **Forbearance/tolerance** our **Present** sins; & **Longsuffering/patience** our **Future** sins.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Spurgeon Quote