

# Kindness

## Lesson 6

### Introduction.

I. "Kindness" is the fifth manifestation of "the fruit of the Spirit."

GAL 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness,

GAL 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- KJV has "gentleness" here, but, at times, renders this word "kindness." (2 Cor. 6:6; Eph. 2:7; Col. 3:12; Tit. 3:4). See notes below.

II. The one who is led by the Spirit of God is not only characterized by love, joy, peace, longsuffering but also must be full of "kindness."

III. In simple language one who claims to be Spirit led is a "kind" person.

A. This is not a stand alone characteristic, **but it is essential**.

B. The lack of kindness is a sure indication that the person is not walking by the Spirit, that is, being led by the Spirit.

C. All believers must be "kind" and seek to grow in this quality. (2 Pet. 1:7).

2PE 1:7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

D. Those who walk in the footsteps of Jesus must be kind like He was.

E. This is not a trait one assumes when it is convenient or when the mood strikes, but must characterize the Christian and his heart at all times.

1. Kindness is a way of life.

2. It is not just an occasional impulse or action.

### I. Kindness Defined

A. The KJV has "gentleness" meaning "not harsh" or "submissive."

1. It comes from the Greek "chrestotes" (khray **stah** tays).

2. It means "gentleness, goodness, kindness."

3. "Goodness" (agathosune, ah gah thoh **soo** nay),

4. “Meekness” (prautes, prah oo tays) is also listed.

B. The word is translated “kindness” in 2 Corinthians 6:6.

2CO 6:6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, **in kindness**, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love,

1. This is the best translation of the word “chrestotes” (khray stah tays).

2. See ASV, Marshall, NIV

3. This word occurs 8 times in the New Testament. (Rom. 2:4; 3:12; 11:22; 2 Cor. 6:6; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 2:7; Col. 3:12; Tit. 3:4).

New American Standard Bible	King James Version
<p>ROM 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the <b>kindness of God</b> leads you to repentance?</p> <p>ROM 3:12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does <b>good</b>, There is not even one. "</p> <p>ROM 11:22 Behold then the <b>kindness</b> and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.</p> <p>2CO 6:6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in <b>kindness</b>, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love,</p> <p>GAL 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, <b>kindness</b>, goodness, faithfulness,</p> <p>EPH 2:7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in <b>kindness</b> toward us in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>COL 3:12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, <b>kindness</b>, humility, gentleness and patience;</p> <p>TIT 3:4 But when the <b>kindness</b> of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,</p>	<p>Rom. 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the <b>goodness of God</b> leadeth thee to repentance?</p> <p>Rom. 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Rom. 11:22 Behold therefore the <b>goodness</b> and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in <i>his</i> goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.</p> <p>2 Cor. 6:6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by <b>kindness</b>, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,</p> <p>Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, <b>gentleness</b>, goodness, faith,</p> <p>Eph. 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in <i>his</i> <b>kindness</b> toward us through Christ Jesus</p> <p>Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, <b>kindness</b>, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;</p> <p>Tit. 3:44 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,</p>

II. Kindness is a **characteristic of God**. (Psa. 36:7; 51:1; Eph. 2:6, 7; Tit. 3:4,5). See Rom. 11:22, NASB

PSA 36:7 How precious is Thy lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Thy wings.

PSA 51:1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions.

EPH 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,  
 EPH 2:7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the **surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus**.

TIT 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,

TIT 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

### III. Kindness was a **characteristic of Christ**.

A. Jesus most often showed great kindness. (Lk. 19:1-10; 23:39-43; Jn. 8:1-11).

B. Jesus could be harsh with the insincere. (Mk. 11:15-18; Matt. 23:13).

MAR 11:15 And they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to cast out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling doves;  
MAR 11:16 and He would not permit anyone to carry goods through the temple.  
MAR 11:17 And He began to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a robbers' den."  
MAR 11:18 And the chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for all the multitude was astonished at His teaching.

MAT 23:13 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from men; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

### IV. **Kindness Is A Characteristic Of Those Led By The Spirit Of God.** (Col. 3:12; Eph. 4:31, 32; 2 Pet. 1:7).

COL 3:12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, **kindness**, humility, gentleness [prauteta] and patience;

EPH 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

EPH 4:32 And **be kind to one another**, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

2PE 1:7 and in your godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

A. Kindness means:

1. We must have a tender heart. (Eph. 4:32).

2. We must get involved. (Lk. 10:25-37).

3. We must be willing:

a. To take risks. It is sometimes dangerous to be kind and one can suffer loss. It is possible to get hurt or even die in being kind.

b. To be unappreciated

c. To be scorned

d. To be assumed weak or dumb.

e. To put forth effort

- f. To be disappointed - Kindness does not always produce positive results. The masses reject God's kindness and many will reject our kindness.

B. Kindness is to be shown to all. (Matt. 5:46-48).

46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? 47 "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

C. Some ways we are to show kindness.

1. **Forgiveness** (Eph. 4:32; Matt. 18:21-35; 6:12, 14-15).
2. **Compassion** (Lk. 10:30-37).
  - a. To enemies (Matt. 5:43, 44).
  - b. To fellow-Christians and "all men" (Gal. 6:10)
3. **Visit** the sick, the aged, those who need encouragement.
4. Be **considerate of a weak brother** (1 Cor. 8:4-13).

1CO 8:4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him. 7 However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. 8 But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat. 9 But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? 11 For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. 12 And thus, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble.

5. **Speak truth in love.** (Eph. 4:15).

6. **Do not say cruel things** about or to people

- a. Cruel things hurt and destroy.
  - b. Form habit of speaking good of others.
7. Kindness should be shown every day in little and big ways.
- a. We seldom have the opportunity to show it in “big ways.”
  - b. Most of our opportunities will be in “little ways.”
8. Being friendly and smiling at others

**B. Some things to remember about kindness.**

- 1. We should manifest kindness every day.
- 2. Kindness is a matter of habit as well as a matter of the heart.
- 3. We should be kind to others before it is too late.
- 4. God sees every kind deed we do. (Matt. 10:42).

**V. The Reward Of Kindness**

- A. Most of the time others will be kind to us if we are kind to them.
- B. God will bless those who manifest kindness. (Matt. 5:7; 7:12; Jas. 2:13).

MAT 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.	MAT 7:12 "Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.	JAM 2:13 For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.
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- 1. Those who are merciful will “receive mercy.”
- 2. We should be merciful and kind because this is how we want others to treat us.
- 3. In the judgment there will be no mercy to those who have shown no mercy.

**Conclusion.**

- I. Christians ought to be the kindness people in the world.
- II. Christians ought to be known as people of **kind hearts, kind words, and kind deeds.**

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