

KINDNESS: The Fruit of the Spirit #6

1 Corinthians 13:4: Love suffers long and is kind...

Thayer on chresteomai: Root: "useful"

- 1) fit, fit for use, useful
- 2) manageable
 - 2a) mild, pleasant (as opposed to harsh, bitter)
 - 2b) of things: pleasant
 - 2c) of people: kind, benevolent

THE GOOD SAMARITAN: A Parable About Kindness

Saw the Man's Need for Help

Sympathized with His Condition (*kindness begins in the heart*)

Seized the Moment to be Kind

Spent Time & Money As Needed (*there is always a cost to kindness*)

Sought Nothing in Return

I. Our Kindness and God's Kindness

A. BECOMING THAT PERSON WHO OFTEN SPEAKS KIND WORDS OR DOES KIND DEEDS will depend on the degree to which we have allowed the Holy Spirit to cultivate in our heart gratitude for God's kindness toward us.

Titus 3:4-5 ⁴But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us...

Luke 6:35-36 ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. ³⁶Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Ephesians 4:31-32 ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Romans 2:3-4 ³Do you suppose, O man – you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself – that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Proverbs 11:17 "A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself."

B. Jesus' yoke is "kind" – Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV) ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

II. Love Acts Kindly

Isaiah 58:7-9 ⁷I want you to share your food with the hungry and to welcome poor wanderers into your homes. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need

your help. ⁸If you do these things, your salvation will come like the dawn. Yes, your healing will come quickly. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind. ⁹Then when you call, the LORD will answer. 'Yes, I am here,' he will quickly reply.



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III. Love Speaks Kindly

A. Proverbs 31:26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.

James 1:26 (ESV) ²⁶If anyone thinks he is religious and **does not bridle his tongue** but deceives his heart, this person's religion is **worthless**.

Matthew 15:18 (ESV) ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth **proceeds from the heart**, and this defiles a person.

Ephesians 4:29-32 (ESV) ²⁹Let no **corrupting talk** come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for **building up**, as fits the occasion, that it may **give grace** to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

B. Harsh Criticism

1. One definition of "grace" is "favor, graciousness, kindness, beauty, and pleasantness."
2. Our words should impart "grace" to the hearer, not corruption, **not tearing down**.
3. **Sarcasm** is from the Greek word "sarkasein" which means "to tear the flesh."
 - a. Cutting, tearing words can hurt, no matter how funny they were intended to be. "I was just kidding!"

- b. Wives weep, husbands cower, and children finally give up under the barrage of criticism leveled in the home.
- c. Harsh and demeaning criticism is the forerunner of divorce, the cultivator of rebellion, and often the catalyst that leads to broken homes and damaged children.
- d. “Be constructive in your comments to a child—always. Never tell them, even in whimsy, that they are fat or dumb or lazy or homely. They remember and may struggle for years trying to forget—and to forgive.” ~ **Jeffrey R. Holland**

C. God’s Wisdom On Avoiding Corrupting Talk That Tears Down

Proverbs 12:18 (ESV) ¹⁸There is one whose **rash words are like sword thrusts**, but the tongue of the wise brings **healing**.

Proverbs 15:4 (ESV) ⁴A **gentle** tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it **breaks the spirit**.

Proverbs 16:24 (ESV) ²⁴Gracious words are like a honeycomb, **sweetness to the soul and health to the body**.

Proverbs 17:1 (ESV) ¹Better is a dry morsel with **quiet** than a house full of feasting with **strife**.

Proverbs 18:21 (ESV) ²¹**Death and life** are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Proverbs 21:19 (ESV) ¹⁹It is better to live in a desert land, than with a **quarrelsome and fretful** woman.

1 Peter 3:4 (ESV) ⁴but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a **gentle and quiet spirit**, which in God’s sight is very precious.

D. Kind Words Are Not ALWAYS Pleasant Words

Psalms 141:3-5 ³Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips! ⁴Do not let my heart incline to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity, and let me not eat of their delicacies! ⁵Let a righteous man strike me – it is a kindness; let him rebuke me – it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it. Yet my prayer is continually against their evil deeds. (see Prov 9:8-10)