

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: WEEK 6

## KINDNESS

### MEANING



**IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, THE HEBREW WORD OFTEN TRANSLATED AS "KINDNESS" IS "CHESSED(HA-SAID)" WHICH ENCOMPASSES LOYALTY, FAITHFULNESS, AND LOVING-KINDNESS.**

**IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE GREEK WORD "CHRĒSTOTĒS(CRA-STOW-TES)" IS USED, EMPHASIZING GOODNESS AND GENTLENESS; TENDER CONCERN, UPRIGHTNESS; KINDNESS OF HEART AND KINDNESS OF ACT"**

### SCRIPTURE



<b>ROMANS 11:22</b>	<b>TITUS 3:1-7</b>	<b>ROMANS 2:1-6</b>
<b>MATTHEW 5:43-48</b>	<b>GENESIS 21:9-21</b>	<b>1 KINGS 17:8-24</b>
<b>LUKE 15:11-32</b>	<b>2 SAMUEL 4:4</b>	<b>2 SAMUEL 9:1-13</b>
	<b>COLOSSIANS 3:12-15</b>	

### GOING DEEPER



#### **KINDNESS:**

- In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word often translated as "kindness" is **"chesed (ha-said)"** which encompasses loyalty, faithfulness, and loving-kindness.
- In the New Testament, the Greek word **"chrēstotēs (cra-stow-tes)"** is used, emphasizing goodness and gentleness; tender concern, uprightness; kindness of heart and kindness of act"
- Kindness is a fundamental attribute of God and a virtue that believers are called to embody.
- It is characterized by benevolence, compassion, and a desire to promote the well-being of others.
- In the biblical context, kindness is associated with love, mercy, and grace, reflecting the nature of God Himself.
- Kindness is portrayed throughout the Bible not just as a trait to be exhibited, but as a reflection of a covenant relationship between God and His people.



- In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word “**chesed**” encapsulates the concept of loving-kindness, which appears frequently in the context of God’s unwavering love and mercy toward Israel.
- This deep-seated kindness of God transcends mere acts of goodness; it embodies a steadfast commitment to His promises and an active engagement in the welfare of His people.
- God’s kindness is not merely an emotion but an active expression of His will to bless and care for His creation.
- This divine kindness serves as a model for human behavior, encouraging believers to emulate this attribute in their interactions with others.
- God is kindness! There is no unkindness found in Him.
- The amazing part of the gospel is that we are unkind. We are sinful. God is not.
- There are times in the Bible when God has disciplined or even wiped out much of humanity because of evil. How could He still be kind?
- Kindness is a noun, it is who He is, and it leads Him to action.
- Kindness is justice.
- Kindness and sternness are revealed in Romans 11:22:
- He is kind, but He is also stern.
- He is stern because He is kind.
- Just as He is love, He is just.

## **THE KINDNESS OF GOD LEADS US TO REPENTANCE:**

- Titus 3:4-7 shows us the kindness of God through the gift of salvation to all who believe in Him:
- His kindness came to us, His Name is Jesus, the incarnate deity.
- He came to earth to show us the greatest act of kindness and love on the cross at Calvary.
- We are lost without Him, enemies of God.
- He defeated death hell and the grave on the cross so that we could be reconciled to God and live with Him for all of eternity.
- We were orphans now grafted into His family, adopted by grace and saved by His lovingkindness!

## **THE LOVE OF GOD MOTIVATES US TO BE KIND:**

- This means that we can live with attitudes of willingness, character and discipline.
- We can bless other people with our time, words, finances, and prayers.
- When someone is living out sinful or hurtful ways, we can show the kindness – the mercy of God – that He has shown to us.
- This is an impossible task in our own strength.



- We are only able to show kindness because we have received Christ's kindness.
- We can only show acts of kindness to our enemies and those who hate us by the power of the Spirit and the Word of God changing our hearts and lives.
- When we realize that we did not deserve kindness from God, but punishment, we are much more aware of how small a task it is in comparison to show kindness out of His love to others.
- We have been given much.

## **THE KINDESS OF GOD IS NOT TOLERANCE!:**

- In today's culture, kindness can be attached to the concept of acceptance and support.
- Everything is self-centered, self-motivated, "you do you" or "worry about yourself" mentality.
- This is dangerous! It abuses kindness and takes kindness out of the context of what God intended.
- **Kindness is not tolerance!**
- Kindness is truth in love. Kindness is mercy.
- Kindness is not above the boundaries of the law that the Lord has set into place for our good and His glory.
- Kindness is living out the gospel that we have all sinned and fall short of His glory, but Jesus came to us, (God in flesh) to make a way to be sin for us so we could have His righteousness.
- We can be kind to people we disagree with.
- Kindness is not equivalent to agreeing with someone else, it is a matter of showing sacrificial love through our thoughts, words, and deeds.
- This means if a man hates Jesus and you, then you can be kind to him by praying for him, saying kind words, and showing him the love of Christ.
- This means if someone lives opposite from God's Bible, you can still be friends, show kindness, encourage him and pray for him.
- By walking in kindness, believers cultivate an atmosphere where justice is upheld, and every person is treated with dignity, reflecting the heart of God in a broken world.
- ***Can we love others with the same commitment and care that God shows to a people who constantly betray Him?***
- ***Are we capable of working for the well-being of others even when they reject us?***
- We have not only been forgiven, but we have been made children of God and heirs of the Most High.
- Kindness is to see our own brokenness in the brokenness of others, and to see their need for compassion as our own need.
- Kindness' true meaning can only be grasped when we interpret reality through the lens of the gospel.



## **KINDNESS THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL:**

### **HAGAR & ISHMAEL:**

- When Sarah exiled Hagar and Ishmael, God gave the outcasts kindness in the form of water and hope (**Genesis 21:9-21**).

### **ELIJAH & THE WIDOW:**

- God expressed kindness when He provided for Elijah and the widow of Zarephath during a drought—and He showed more kindness later when He raised the widow's only son from the dead (**1 Kings 17:8-24**).

### **THE PRODIGAL SON:**

- A clear example of what true kindness looks like can be seen in that moment when the prodigal son comes back to his father hoping to compensate his father for his debt (**Luke 15:11-32**).
- The father looks at his son and embraces him with lovingkindness.
- He not only forgives all the pain and shame his son has brought upon him and his family, but the father truly rejoices in doing good to his son as he gives him a beautiful ring and new robe.

### **KING DAVID & MEPHIBOSHETH:**

- Another example can also be found in the story of Mephibosheth.
- King David showed the true lovingkindness of God to the grandson of King Saul and son of Jonathan; a foreshadowing of what Christ did for us.
- Mephibosheth was lame because of a fall when his care-taker was trying to flee the household with him. He was five years old at the time. (**2 Samuel 4:4**)
- Just like this story, we were dead, lame from the curse of sin and yet, because of the lovingkindness of God, He sent His only begotten Son to pay the price we could not pay.
- The finished work of the Cross made a place for us at the King's table for all eternity!
- We did nothing to deserve such love and such kindness from God!
- We deserved death; He came to give us life and life more abundantly!
- Just as Jesus so graciously made room for us at His table, who are we to judge who is and who is not worthy to come to the table?
- ***Who are we to judge who is or who is not worthy of His kindness, mercy, grace, LOVE?***
- ***When was the last time we carried someone to the Master's table?***
- ***When was the last time we showed the true lovingkindness of GOD to a broken, lost and hurting world?***

## SCRIPTURE OF REFLECTION



### **COLOSSIANS 3:12-15:**

**12. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**

**13. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.**

**Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**

**14. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**

**15. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.**



## REFLECTION/NOTES

