

**What's in YOUR Garden? (part 6)
The Fruit of the Spirit: KINDNESS
Pastor Bill Bowers**

August 28, 2016

Galatians 5:22-25

2 Samuel 9

The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. 2 Samuel 3:1

Is there still anyone left in the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake? 2 Samuel 9:1

In the Old Testament, the word kindness (*Hesed*) in its fullest sense means:

- Kindness, love, steadfastness, conventional friendship, loyal love, justice.

In the New Testament, the word kindness (*chrestotes*) in its fullest sense means:

- Love in action; meeting real needs, in God's way, in His timing. *Actively seeking the good of another.*

Don't be afraid. I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. 2 Samuel 9:7

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us. Not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. Titus 3:5

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For Personal Reflection or LifeGroup Questions
What's in YOUR Garden?
"The Fruit of the Spirit: KINDNESS"
Pastor Bill Bowers / August 28, 2016

1. This week we heard teaching on the Fruit of the Spirit—**kindness**. What images come to mind when you think of this virtue? How would you describe kindness in practical terms?
2. The use of the word in our study this week comes from the Greek word *chrestotes* (khray-stot'-ace). This usage actually conveys the meaning of "usefulness that is profitable" or *usable kindness*; refers to *meeting real needs*. Does this definition change your description or image of kindness? If yes, how?
3. Pastor Bill mentioned Mephibosheth (the son of Jonathan and grandson of King Saul) in his teaching on kindness. While Jonathan was an extremely dear friend of King David, Mephibosheth might have posed a great threat to King David. How might the kindness of David to Mephibosheth be compared to God's kindness toward us (while we were yet sinners)?
4. Can you imagine and/or list any ways that kindness is distorted in our world? In what ways might we act toward one another in the name of kindness, but we are not being *useful* or meeting *real needs*?
5. Pastor Bill related a story from a recent trip where he and his traveling companions had the opportunity to extend useful kindness, providing real help for a specific need. Thinking about your own life and the circles of influence within your daily life, can you recall or identify where you might provide useful kindness to another?
6. When we consider the reality of God's unmerited favor and grace toward us, it can be overwhelming. But even more overwhelming is the idea of reciprocating that same favor and grace toward another human being, especially one I might identify as unworthy of my energy and resources. Are there ways you might be able to move more gracefully into the area of kindness? What changes or what steps might you need to take to move into that favor and grace?

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