

# Fruit Of The Spirit

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## Kindness

(Co 3:12-13)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the "Fruit Of The Spirit."
  - a. We have thus far looked at...
    - i. Love, joy, peace, and patience.
    - ii. Each one vital to the production of the fruit of the Spirit.
  - b. Today we will look at another characteristic of this fruit, "Kindness."
3. Defining kindness
  - a. The Greek word for kindness from our text today is "χρηστότης" or "chres-to-tes."
    - i. It is found 10 times in 8 different verses.
      1. Romans is the most prolific book to use it as it is found 5 times there.
  - b. "kindness of heart or act...not merely goodness as a quality, rather it is goodness in action, goodness expressing itself in deeds; yet not goodness expressing itself in indignation against sin, for it is contrasted with severity in Rom. 11:22, but in grace and tenderness and compassion." (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). Vol. 2: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (274). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
  - c. "benignity, kindness" (Thayer, J. H. (1889). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti. New York: Harper & Brothers.)
    - i. Benignity means "warmhearted, good-natured, friendly, affectionate, agreeable, cordial, approachable, caring, well-disposed." (<http://goo.gl/ARU8a>)
4. "The way we view others, interact with others and react to others should be marked by this important characteristic." (<http://goo.gl/MWnIe>)
  - a. With that in mind let us examine this most important characteristic.

### I. How Do We Get Kindness?

- A. Kindness is something we are to "put on"
  1. Remember what Paul told the brethren.
    - i. **Co 3:12-13** "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience"<sup>1</sup>
  2. The idea of "put on" is that of putting on clothing.
    - i. In the same way we put on our clothing we are to put on kindness.
- B. Kindness is something therefore that covers us
  1. Remember what Paul told the brethren of Galatia about what baptism does.
    - i. **Ga 3:27** "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
      - a. The idea of course is that as many people as have been baptized into Christ have been "clothed" or "covered" with Christ. This is what Paul meant when he state earlier...

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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1. **Ga 2:20a** "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me..."
2. In the same way kindness is something that should "cloth" us.
  - i. Once we put it on we should be covered with it.
    - a. The express we often hear, "Oh, he/she is the nicest person" is the idea that Paul is talking about to the brethren in Colossi.
- C. So, how do we get the characteristic of kindness
  1. We put it on and let it cover us in it.
  2. We make the conscience effort to be tender hearted and compassionate toward others.
    - i. **Co 3:13** "bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

## II. What Does God's Kindness Ask Of Us?

- A. God's kindness asks us to put Him first
  1. **Ro 11:22** "Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off."
    - a. **Mt 6:33a** "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness..."
    - b. **He 3:6, 14** "but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end...14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end" (NKJV)
- B. God's kindness asks us to come back to Him
  1. **Ro 2:4** "Or 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?"
    - a. How can one that has tasted the sweet nectar of salvation do anything but repent when they have fallen short.
    - b. God's tender compassionate kindness towards us should be reason enough for us to "comeback" to Him.
      - i. In fact God's kindness "asks" us to come back to Him.

## III. David's Example Of Kindness

- A. David's example of kindness shows how we are to get kindness
  1. David looked for a member of Saul's house for Jonathan that he may show the "kindness of God" to him/her.
    - i. Notice David's kindness is based in God's kindness.
      - a. **II Sa 9:3** "And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet.""

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2. Thus David first "put on" or sought out someone to show kindness to.
- B. Then David "put God first" and followed through with this kindness
  1. It is one thing to "talk" about being kind but another to actually do it.
    - i. Notice David's kindness acted out toward Mephibosheth.
      - a. Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan and grandson of king Saul.
        1. **II Sa 4:4**
      - b. Mephibosheth was given back all the land that Saul had possessed.
        1. **II Sa 9:7**
      - c. Mephibosheth was give the right to sit and eat at David's table all the days of his life.
        1. **II Sa 9:7, 10**
      - d. Mephibosheth became like one of David's sons.
        1. **II Sa 9:11**
- C. David's great example of kindness teaches us...
  1. That we not only have to put on kindness but we have to act on it and keep it on.

### CONCLUSION

1. There are a lot of reason to become hardhearted in the world we live in.
  - a. We might pour our hearts out to someone and feel in return that they do not appreciate our kindness.
    - i. That can be very difficult to deal with.
  - b. But I heard a saying today on kindness that I think should help each of us put into perspective how we should feel about being kind to others knowing there are those out there that would take advantage of us.
    - i. "Never feel bad about showing kindness to someone else."
2. Question: Have you put on kindness and thus clothed yourself with it?
  - a. If so continue therein and continue to grow thereby.
  - b. If not why not make that change right now and "act" on God's kindness that He has shown toward you in repentance.
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**

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- v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins [Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21](#)
- vi. Live A Faithful Life [I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8](#)