

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - THE KINDNESS OF GOD

Discuss the following questions with the person next to you while we wait to begin:

- Q. How would you define kindness? What might it look like?
Q. Do you think we live in a kind society?

INTRODUCTION & RECAP

The fruit of the Spirit

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is...

...against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

ATTEMPTING A DEFINITION OF KINDNESS

Phil 2:4 - *"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others...."*

whether they deserve it or not and independent of gaining anything in return

Luke 6:35, 36 - *"But 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 is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful"*.

Titus 3:4 - *"When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us..."*

Kindness is a person: Jesus

KINDNESS IS AT THE VERY HEART OF GOD'S CHARACTER

'Hesed' - God's loyal loving kindness

Psalms 63:3 Because thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Psalms 143:8 Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust. Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk, for I lift up my soul to thee.

Psalms 145:17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

KINDNESS IS NOT NATURAL

Our hearts

Family

Society

Nations

CHRISTIAN KINDNESS IS SUPERNATURAL

“Just be kind, it's easy”?

Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit

THE SOIL IN WHICH KINDNESS GROWS

Kindness - Meeting the needs of others (**Mark 6:30-44**)

Kindness - Healing the unlovable (**Matthew 8:1-4**)

Kindness - Forgiving enemies (**Luke 23:34**)

KEEPING IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT

All desires have a direction and a goal

Fleshly desires are part of the Christian life - but they need not master us

We can grow in kindness

Discuss: With your partner talk about a normal day and discuss where your fleshly desires and the Holy Spirit may clash especially in regards to kindness?

Q. What do you need to remember in those moments? What can you be praying about?

Q. What are you looking forward to about the resurrection?!

Pray about those moments and seek the Spirit's help.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control