

KINDNESS
“Fruit Of The Spirit”
Galatians 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. ...” Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Jesus is *“The kindness of God.”* (Titus 3:4)

“I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.” John 13:15 (NLT)

I. KINDNESS IS OUR RESPONSE TO THE GRACE GOD HAS SHOWN US.

Love God and *“... love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Matthew 19:19)

Kindness is love in **action**. It’s not a feeling. It is something you **do**.

A. THINKING ABOUT KINDNESS

1. Kindness puts us at **risk**.
 - The Good Samaritan, Ruth and Boaz, and David and Mephibosheth.
2. Kindness makes our faith **credible**.
 - We express our faith through our acts and attitudes of **kindness**.

B. KINDNESS - FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS:

1. He understands my **weaknesses**.

“(Jesus) understands our weakness since He had the same temptations we do, though He never once gave way to them and sinned. So let us come boldly to (Him)... and find grace to help us in our times of need.”
Hebrews 4:15-16

 - When you come and say, “Lord, I’m struggling in this area,” He doesn’t say, “Just shape up!” He’s not a drill sergeant. Jesus says, “I’ve been there. I know what you are talking about. Remember I was a human being too.”

“(If someone) is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help him back onto the right path, remembering that next time it might be you who is in the wrong. Share each other’s troubles and problems.” Galatians 6:1-2

 - Be kind not **judgmental**.
2. He is **available**.
 - Jairus’s daughter and the sick women (Luke 8:40-56)
 - Be **aware** of God-given opportunities.

3. He tells me the **truth**.

(Jesus) *“... you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*
John 8:32 (NIV)

 - Tell the **truth** in love.

“Let our lives lovingly express the truth in all things ...” Ephesians 4:15

“An honest answer is a sign of a true friendship.” Proverbs 24:26 (NLT)

“A good man ... will rebuke me in kindness, ...” Psalms 141:5

4. He forgives my **sin**.

“All of us have sinned ... yet now God declares us ‘not guilty’ of offending Him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in His kindness freely takes away our sins.” Romans 3:23-24

“... through what Christ would do for us, God decided to make us holy in His eyes, without a single fault—we stand before Him covered with His love.” Ephesians 1:4

 - Kindness forgives **others**.

“Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God has forgiven you because you belong to Christ.” Ephesians 4:32

5. He affirms my **worth**.

“You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life ... How precious it is, Lord, to realize that you are thinking about me constantly!”
Psalms 139:16-17

“... God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us ...”
Romans 5:8

“... you were redeemed from the empty way of life ... with the precious blood of Christ, ...” 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT)

“... I have engraved you on the palms of My hands ...” Isaiah 49:16

 - I am to **affirm** the worth of others.

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, ...”
Romans 15:7 (NIV)

“Show respect for everyone ...” 1 Peter 2:17

“... encourage one another and build each other up, ...”
1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

- The point of our good deeds is to point people to the love of God, to allow Him to get the glory.
- “In response to all God has done for us, let us out do each other in being helpful and kind to each other ...”* Hebrews 10:24