

# Fruit of the Spirit — Part 5

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August 27, 2017

## Review

Continuing our study on the **Fruit of the Spirit** from Galatians 5:22-23.

- **Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- **Fruit of the Spirit** — what the Spirit produces as we abide in Jesus

- **John 15:4-5**

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

- Studied so far — Love, Joy, Peace, Patience. TODAY we look at **Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness**

## Kindness —

gentleness, the fruit that mellows and softens all that would be uptight, harsh, and severe in us

- **KINDNESS** — it's what appeared to us, from God, through Jesus, when we were wicked

- **Titus 3: 3-6**

For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Application** — *God's kind gentleness is seen in Him sending Jesus to us when we were wicked and totally undeserving. He wasn't uptight, harsh, severe, cruel, etc. Our Father displayed His kind gentleness to us. **God's kindness isn't just for the kind.***

- **Luke 6:35**

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

**Application** — *the Spirit wants to work that kindness through us to others!*

## Kindness —

It is what leads us to repentance

- **Romans 2:4**

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

*Application — goodness is kindness, same Greek word — kindness leads to repentance because we know what to expect from God. No uptight, harsh, severity... kind gentleness. You can bring your failures, your sins — He says, “come let us reason together.” Do we show this same kind of forbearance with our children and our spouses?*

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## Kindness —

it's what the Spirit wants to produce through us because we have already experienced it

“Kindness is born of the fact that we ourselves are objects of God’s kindness.”<sup>1</sup>  
R.C. Sproul, Bible Scholar

- **Colossians 3:12**

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering

“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”<sup>2</sup>  
Mark Twain

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## Goodness —

being ruled by and aiming at what is good according to God’s standard

“Goodness is a relative term. Something or someone is good relative to some standard. The ultimate standard of goodness is the character of God Himself.”<sup>3</sup>  
R.C. Sproul

### **Question — What is God’s standard for goodness?**

- **Luke 6:33**

And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

- **DO GOOD TO ALL, EVEN ENEMIES!**

- **Acts 10:38**

...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

- **DOING GOOD HEALING ALL!**

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. Sproul, *retrieved from www.goodreads.com*

<sup>2</sup> Mark Twain, *Bite-Size Twain: Wit and Wisdom from the Literary Legend* ( St. Martin’s Press, 2015)

<sup>3</sup> R.C. Sproul, *retrieved from www.goodreads.com*

- **Galatians 6:9-10**

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

*Application — don't grow weary, reward is coming, as opportunity, do good to all, especially...*

**Goodness is the disposition to be kind, benevolent, generous to all, the supernatural unconscious looking for situations to be good to people!**

***Again — the Spirit wants to produce goodness — being ruled by and aiming at what is good — through us, because we've experienced it, and to express the heart of God to people***

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## **Gentleness —**

meeekness, humility in dealing with people

- **In their sin**

- **Galatians 6:1**

- Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

*Application — overtaken, spiritual, restore, spirit of gentleness, considering yourself, lest you also be tempted — non-judgmental — how can I help restore you?*

- **In their opposition to truth**

- **2 Timothy 2:24-26**

- And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

*Application — gentleness and humility are needed to correct people who are in opposition to the truth, so they might repent, hoping they can come to their senses, escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*

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## **Remember**

- **Proverbs 15:1**

- A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

- **James 1:19-20**

- So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

- **“You’re uptight... shut up!” “I’m not uptight, you’re uptight!” — Didn’t work — doesn’t work — won’t work.**

## CHALLENGE

The Spirit wants to produce in us the same Kindness, Goodness, and Gentleness that we have been given in Jesus — and then express it through us to reveal the kind, good, gentle heart of God to people.

IT TAKES THE SPIRIT TO BE KIND, GOOD AND GENTLE  
TO PEOPLE WHO ARE UNKIND, EVIL, AND ARROGANT TOWARD US.  
**THIS IS WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO!**

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### Discussion Questions

1. If our mandate is to become like Christ, what does this require of our attitudes and actions toward those who mistreat and malign us?
2. Does this apply to any particular person or situation in your life today? How will you handle it?
3. Understanding that God accepts us through his goodness, and not through judgment; does this affect how you respond to a child or spouse or friend who needs forgiveness?
4. Discuss, “goodness is a relative term.” What is God’s standard for goodness?
5. In the world, often “humility” is equated with “weakness.” What is its true meaning?
6. Where can you start being kind, good, and gentle to all?

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**Before the Throne:  
a night of worship & prayer**

Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary