



# World Christian Fellowship

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## Galatians

### Lesson 55 – Fruit of the Spirit Kindness

**Galatians 5:22-23**, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

We are given to understand that LOVE (Agape) is the fulfilling of the Law towards our neighbour. (Romans 13:10)

The fruit of kindness comes out of the love of God in our hearts.  
**1 Corinthians 13:4**, *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up*

The Hebrew word for kindness is **CHESED**.

The Greek word is **CHRESTOS**.

It is generally defined as:

- Being useful, beneficial, or helpful to others.
- Showing friendship.
- Being merciful and compassionate.
- This deals with the motive behind the act.

## **How can we identify the Kindness?**

Kindness being shown by one man to another is detected by the following.

### **1. How we speak?**

**2 Kings 25:28**, *He spoke kindly to him, and gave him a more prominent seat than those of the kings who were with him in Babylon.*

**Proverbs 31:26**, *She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.*

### **2. How we act or deeds?**

**Genesis 21:23**, *Now therefore, swear to me by God that you will not deal falsely with me, with my offspring, or with my posterity; but that according to the kindness that I have done to you, you will do to me and to the land in which you have dwelt."*

### **3. By attitude!**

**Ruth 1:8**, *And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.*

## God our Example

**Matthew 5:48**, *Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

It is obvious from Scripture and common sense that our attitudes and actions are to be copied after the perfect Being GOD!

The ultimate aspiration of every Christian should be to be like God in all things and in all ways.

God has shown His kindness in many ways to man.

### 1. In the creation

**Matthew 5:45**, *that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

**Genesis 8:21-22**, *And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. <sup>22</sup> "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."*

## 2. To Israel

**Nehemiah 9:17**, *They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage. But You are God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them.*

**Isaiah 54:8**, *With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," Says the Lord, your Redeemer.*

## 3. To Sinful men

**Titus 3:4-5**, *But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> 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,*

**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?*

**Ephesians 2:7**, *that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

## Value of Kindness

Just as the kindness of God leads or motivates men to repent (Romans 2:4), in the same way the kindness of Christians toward others can achieve good results.

**Romans 12:20-21**, *Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."* <sup>21</sup>*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Showing kindness to our enemies rather than evil helps to overcome the problem that exists between them.

We do not propagate evil by doing evil, but we overcome evil by doing kind deeds. Kind deeds and attitudes win more victories than returning evil for evil.

Teaching and preaching of the Gospel needs to be done with kindness.

Paul expressed it this way: "speaking the truth in love."

**Ephesians 4:15**, *but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ*

**2 Corinthians 6:4-7**, *But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, <sup>5</sup>in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours,*

*in sleeplessness, in fastings;<sup>6</sup> by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,<sup>7</sup> by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left*

**2 Timothy 2:24-26**, *And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,<sup>25</sup> in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,<sup>26</sup> 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.*

- The Christian is to contend for the faith (Jude 1:3),
- Set for the defense of the Gospel (Philippians 1:16),
- Stand fast and strive for the faith of the Gospel (Philippians 1:27).

If we look to Jesus for our example, we notice that he plainly rebuked the errors of the Scribes and Pharisees and called them by name.

**Matthew 23:13-15, 23, 25-27, 29,**

<sup>13</sup> *“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. <sup>14</sup> Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers.*

*Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. <sup>15</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.*

*<sup>23</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*

*<sup>25</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.*

*<sup>27</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.*

*<sup>29</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous,*

Instead of this being evil, it was the greatest of kindness because He was trying to save their soul.

There is no greater kindness to be extended to our fellowman than teaching them God's truth plainly in contrast to the errors of men.

To compromise our teaching is to cause people to continue in error and be lost which is not kind at all.

Our attitude and approach must show to those who hear that we are sincerely concerned for their condition and want them to be saved eternally.

Kindness does not mean to compromise with error.  
God hates every false way so we also should hate it.

**Psalms 119:104, 128,**

*<sup>104</sup> Through Your precepts I get understanding;  
Therefore I hate every false way.*

*<sup>128</sup> Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I  
consider to be right; I hate every false way.*

**Hebrews 1:9,** *You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”*

**Revelation 2:15,** *Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*

The Christian needs to realize the harm that error does and be willing to challenge it and oppose it with the right spirit.

Kindness is:

- 1. Commanded**

**Ephesians 4:32**, *And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

**2. Desired to be shown by people**

**Proverbs 19:22**, *What is desired in a man is kindness, And a poor man is better than a liar.*

**3. To be returned**

**2 Samuel 2:6**, *So David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead, and said to them, "You are blessed of the Lord, for you have shown this kindness to your lord, to Saul, and have buried him.*

## **Conclusion**

As Christians, we need to be known as kind people. Let us use this powerful tool to accomplish good in this world.

Pray to God that you will show such kindness everyday of your life.