

The Important Quality of Kindness

NKJV Gal. 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.”

Introduction:

Vines Expository Dictionary - in the sense of kindness of heart or act, said of God, said of believers and rendered "kindness,". It signifies "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, but in grace and tenderness and compassion."

Kindness is a virtue that stands out in a world of harshness and selfishness. It's an attractive quality, evident not only on our faces but especially in our words and actions. More importantly, kindness is an attribute that should characterize every believer because it's a reflection of Christ in us.

Kindness = good works or good deeds. Good works are measured, felt, seen, quantified and ratified by God and for God. It does not save a person but shows a saved person.

(more on the importance of this later!)

What does Kindness Reflect?

Kindness is mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 as part of the fruit God's Spirit produces within us. It reflects that active leadership of the Holy Spirit in a Christian's life after being saved. It's closely associated with the traits of goodness and gentleness, all of which are aspects of each other. If one is kind, he or she will also be good and gentle.

Although kindness is produced by the Spirit within us, it's also an attribute that we are expected to cultivate because it is commanded in God's Word.

Ephesians 4:32

“Be kind (command) to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Colossians 3:12

“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on (command) a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

Kindness is the outflow of the indwelling Holy Spirit onto those around us. It's the Christlike characteristic that should be apparent in every believer's life. We are sensitive to the needs of those around us and ready to offer help with our words or actions.

How do we Cultivate the fruit of kindness?

John 15:5

“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.”

This is spiritual fruit not manufactured fruit or forced. It is a natural by-product of being connect to Jesus and his spirit flowing through us.

Apples trees, when planted in the right environment, do not struggle to bear apples. They don't struggle to bear fruit. It's just what they do.

The capacity to show kindness or do good works is in every spirit filled believer. But branches must be pruned to produce more fruit.

John 15:1-2

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Branches are called to serve only to one purpose: **Bear Fruit**. But pruned branches bear **Much Fruit**.

“Want to see what's inside a person? Take a bite out of them and see what comes out.” – Rev. John Tanberg

How is our Fruit to be displayed?

Good works are to be displayed outside of any spotlight. It's natural for us to want to be recognized and be well thought of. But that is the problem, it's natural. The **spiritual** only seeks to please the **Spirit**.

Matthew 6:3

1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

"Let God be present and you will have enough of an audience". – Charles Spurgeon

The need to be recognized negates the blessing of God into our lives.

Who are we to show Kindness to? What is the connection to our salvation?

Biblical good works that have reward are directed to those not like ourselves. Let's look at four examples.

Example 1:

Matthew 5:44-47

44 But I say to you, 1.love your enemies, 2.bless those who curse you, 3.do good to those who hate you, 4.and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 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. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

Example 2:

Matthew 5:39-42

39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever 1.slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 2.If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. 41 3. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 4.Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to

borrow from you do not turn away.....46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?

This type of kindness can only be demonstrated by that active work of the **Holy Spirit** and crucifying our flesh. If not, our good deeds are lowered to worldly standards for worldly reward.

Example 3:

Parable of the Good Samaritan:

Question: "Teacher, what must I do to eternal life?"

Answer: "Love God with all your heart, soul mind strength. AND Love your neighbor as yourself."

Question: Who is my neighbor?

Answer: The beaten and broken, those who has fallen among thieves. (those who are not like us)

Example 4:

Matthew 25:32-40

34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

Why is Kindness (Good Works) Important?

(Remember I said we would come back to this!?!?)

Reason #1: In examples 1-4, kindness (good works) are **expressions** of a person bound for heaven.

Example 1 - *"in heaven that you maybe sons of your Father"*

Example 2 - *“what reward do you have?”*

Example 3 - *“when I come back, I will repay thee”*

Example 4 - *“Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: “*

In Example 4, both the Sheep and Goats ask the same question, “When did we see you?” The Sheep performed the act of kindness with no thought of consequence who they were serving. But the Goats thought they were Sheep based on their response and were surprised so they asked “when did we see you?” Their act of kindness depended on who they serving.

The only reason any of us are saved is because God’s kindness led us to repentance (Romans 2:4). Having experienced His grace, we are now able to show kindness to those who mistreat us. Sometimes the best response to those who revile us is not self-defense but peaceful kindness. This is not a sign of weakness; it’s a sign of strength. Kindness conquers by disarming the attacker and ending the fight.

Reason #2: Kindness paves the way for the lost to receive **the gospel**.

Love paves the way so Doctrine can be established. Love will always reach more people than doctrine ever will because everyone can feel genuine kindness.

Reason #3: It paves the way for **discipleship**

Before Andrew and John become the first apostles after Jesus asked them to spend the day with him. (John 1:39)

Reason #4: God remembers every kind act and **records it** (Malachi 3:16) and so we should not weary in doing well because our reward is waiting (Gal. 6:9-10)

Supporting Scriptures: **Matt 5:16** *“that may see your good works”*, **Eph. 2:10** *“created in Christ Jesus for good works”*, **2 Tim. 6:18** *“the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto good works”*, **Titus 3:8** *“ they that which believe in God might be careful to maintain good works”*, **Heb. 10:24** *“let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works”* **1 Peter 2:12** *“that where as they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”*