

Lesson: (#10) FRUIT OF KINDNESS

This is the tenth lesson in the series entitled, Fruit of Holy Spirit.

Kindness (chrestotes) is the fifth fruit of the Holy Spirit as listed in Gal.5:22 (love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness).

Chrestotes is translated into the English as goodness of the heart and kindness. “Kindness is acting for the good of people regardless of what they do.” (Wikipedia)

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.” (Vines Expository dictionary of Biblical Words, pg.274)

Kindness is given without expecting anything in return. You keep being kind no matter what the circumstances.

This lesson will study six aspects of the Fruit of Kindness as a New Covenant and church age phenomena.

1. Just like love, joy, peace, and patience, kindness is also identified with the divine character of God.

(Rom.2:4) “Or do you think lightly of the riches of **His kindness** and forbearance and patience (makrothumia), not knowing that the **kindness of God** leads you to repentance?”

Old Covenant view of kindness:

(Matt7:12) “Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and Prophets.”

New Covenant view of kindness:

(Eph.4:32) “And be (ginomai / p.a.impv.2pl) **kind** to one another, **tender-hearted, forgiving** each other, **just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**”

(Forgiveness - Matt.18:22 (OC / 70x7) (NC / just as)

2. Archbishop Trench used the penitent woman of Luke 7:36-48 as an example of chrestotes kindness.

We will examine Luke 7:36-48 by the following four homiletic points.

- Party (Lk.7:36-38) Invited and non-invited guests
 - Prejudices (Lk.7:39-40) Towards invited and non-invited guests
 - Parable (Lk.7:41-43) About host of party
 - Principle (Lk.7:44-48) To the host of party (For this reason I say to you) Vs.47
-
- Did the woman sinner show kindness to Jesus? (Alabaster vial of perfume)
 - Did Jesus show kindness to her and Simon? (different views about sinners)
 - Did Simon show kindness to her or to Jesus? (difference between religion and Christianity)

3. The kindness of God was illustrated by Paul in discussing the grafting in of the wild branch (Gentiles) into the plan of God while cutting off the natural branch (Israel) because of faith in Jesus Christ (Rom.9-11; 11:11-24).

(Rom.11:20) “Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear.”

(Rom.11:20, 22) “Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who feel, severity, but to you, **God’s kindness**, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will cut off.” (Rev.2:5)

God kindness is extended to every Church Age Believer (CAB) at the moment of grace salvation in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(Eph.2:4-10) “In order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing **riches of His grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus**. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Eph.2:7-8; Titus 3:4-6; 1 Pet.2:2-3)

Chrestos (Kind) was “another version of Christ’s name which the Greeks could better understand than the one derived from chrio (anointed).” (TD of NT, vol.9, pg.85)

4. The use of Greek predicate nominative for the 9 fruit of the Holy Spirit in Gal.5:22-23 teaches that these are supernaturally produced in the CAB.

These nine (9) fruit are produced whenever the CAB walks by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.3:2; 1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.5:16, 22-23).

Theologians refer to these nine fruit as “visible gifts.” “Kindness and gentleness belong to the visible gifts of the Spirit.” (Dictionary of NT Theology, vol.2, pg.106)

They are given to and through the spirituality of the CAB.

5. Kindness is a virtue of the spiritually mature (super-grace) Church Age Believer.

Paul shows kindness as a characteristic of new man life style (super-grace) (Col.3:5-14).

(Col.3:12-13) “And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, **kindness**, humility, **gentleness** and **patience**; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”

6. Kindness is an unmistakable part of God’s love outreach (1 Cor.13:4-8).

It is listed as 1 of 8 aspects of God’s Love. In fact, two of the fruit of the Holy Spirit are listed along with love at the very beginning:

- patience (makrothumia)
- kindness (chrestotes) (1 Cor.13:4, 6, 7-8).

Additional fruit of the Holy Spirit listed are rejoicing and believes.

Paul mentions the importance of kindness in the ministry to other (2 Cor.6:3-10)

(2 Cor.6:3) “Giving no cause for offense in anything, in order that the ministry be not discredited.”