

Understanding The Importance and Purpose of Walking in The Fruit of the Spirit Handout #6

1. It's important how we talk to people!

a. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruit of the Spirit the resulting character of someone who is allowing the Holy Spirit to develop maturity in his or her life.

b. The fifth characteristic, kindness, is called "gentleness" in the KJV

c. Kindness is goodness in action, sweetness of disposition, gentleness in dealing with others, benevolence, affability

d. Kindness is a spiritual law

e. Proverbs 31:26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness

f. Kindness is associated with love, goodness, mercy, graciousness, gentleness, usefulness, thoughtfulness and being sensitive to the needs and feelings of others around you.

G. Do the above definitions accurately describe your personality and how you interact with others

h. They should because that's who you really are on the inside. As a partaker of God's goodness, you are kind

I. The opposite of kindness is cruelty, meanness, rudeness, sharpness, abuse, harshness, brutality, malice, spitefulness, vindictiveness, mercilessness, viciousness, ruthlessness, and callousness. All of these negative traits are works of the flesh and are wicked in God's sight.

J. We as believers cannot let the unkindness of the world seep into our speech and makes us abrasive, sharp or harsh. Its not who you are Its what you use to be.

K. We have to draw our words from our new identity

L. Ephesians 4:29-32 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. **30** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: **32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

M. We are to say things in a way that builds people up and encourages them.

O. Kindness involves not only your actions, but the words that come out of your mouth, and the tone of voice used. Kindness is very careful in what you say and how you say it, so as to not purposely offend or hurt someone else or stir up wrath.

P. Kindness is associated with wisdom, because it takes wisdom to know the right words to speak in season to those who are weary and need encouragement.

Q. One of the traits the virtuous woman is known for is her wisdom, as well as the law of kindness coming from her lips.

R. Proverbs 31:26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

2. Kindness attracts people to us and to Jesus who is inside us.

A. We are to talk to people like Jesus did and your Heavenly Father would.

B. Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father. (AMP)

c. We are to put away old habits and hardness toward other people and replace them with new patterns like our heavenly Father.

D. Many Christians do not realize how kind God is.

E. They think of Him being harsh, quick to judge and criticize. If you do something he does not like he will cut, you down.

F. The Bible however contradicts such ideals.

G. Jeremiah 9:24 but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord. (NIV)

h. Psalm 117 1-2 O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.
2 For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord.

I. 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. (NKJ)

J. 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.(NKJ)

k. 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.(NKJ)

I. God need for us to manifest His kindness because it's a witness to the World

m. When the unbelievers see us acting like our father being tender and kind, speaking kind words doing kind deeds they realize there is something different about us.

N. 2 Peter 1:5-10 lists the nine Graces of the Holy Spirit: 1. Diligence 2. Faith 3. Virtue 4. Knowledge 5. Self-control 6. Perseverance 7. Godliness 8. Brotherly kindness 9. Love

O. 2 Peter 1:8-10 "For if these things (9 Graces of the Holy Spirit) are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble."(NKJV)

P. Kindness means to treat others the way God has treated you. He has shown you mercy and kindness your whole life.

Q. Kindness means to follow the Golden Rule. Do unto others as you would

have them do unto you (Matthew 7:12)

R. You may say I understand what the Word says but my life is hectic.

I don't have the energy to even think about whether or not I'm being kind.

S. Jesus understands how draining the challenges of Life can be and he told us how to get recharged

t. Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light

u. So, what do you do when we are exhausted and running short on kindness? We run to Jesus. He is our Deliverer He is our source of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

V. When Jesus said "Come unto me" he is saying Don't look at the circumstances and people Look at me. He will not force His rest and refreshing on you. You must give Him and opening by getting in His Word and His presence.

w. James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

X. You need to live in such continual presence with Him when a problem comes up and you need an answer for it, he's your first thought.

3. Just as Jesus is the Source of Kindness. He's also its counterpart: the spirit of Goodness

a. The word "goodness" means goodness in the sense of being good to someone. This word was used to portray a person who is generous, big-hearted, liberal, and charitable with his finances. We would call this person a giver

b. Acts 10:38 how 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. (NKJ)

c. Most people who preach from this verse focus primarily on the healing portion of this verse, but I want to draw your attention to the phrase "doing good,".

d. The words "doing good" is from an old Greek word that denoted a benefactor, a philanthropist, or one who financially supported charitable works.

E. This word would only be used to describe a person who possessed great financial substance and who used it to assist those who were less fortunate.

F. This is stating by the use of this word is that Jesus possessed a great amount of financial resources in His ministry.

G. Luke 8:3 Joanna, the wife of Chusa, who managed King Herod's household. Many other women who supported Jesus' ministry from their own personal finances also traveled with him. (TPT)

h. Also, we can infer from Judas' words in John 12:5 that Jesus' ministry had a significant giving outreach to the poor and needy over which Judas had

been placed in charge . John 12:5 "What a waste! We could have sold this perfume for a fortune and given the money to the poor!"(TPT)

i. We can find this very significant, for it tells us that Jesus didn't only perform supernatural works; He also used His resources to do good works in the natural realm. Jesus cared for the poor; He helped feed the needy; and He utilized the vast resources of money made available to His ministry to meet the basic needs of human beings.

J. Thus, He set an example for us to be concerned for and involved in the meeting of basic human needs as we are able to do so.

K. This tells us that acting in "goodness" is a character feature of the nature of God. God is just as interested in helping the poor and needy with financial assistance as He is in supernaturally healing their bodies.

L. The truth is, helping to meet the physical needs of other people is an act of "goodness" that Jesus did and still longs to do through His people.

M. God is letting us know that He wants us to be selfless, using our resources to help change people's living conditions for the better.

N. This is contrary to the flesh, which would consume every spare dollar on itself. But when the Spirit is working mightily in us, He shifts our focus from ourselves to the needs of those who are around us.

O. Thus, the fruit of the Spirit called "goodness" is that supernatural urge in a person to reach beyond himself to meet the natural needs of those around him.

4. The Bible declares from beginning to end that God is Good and we must demonstrate his Goodness to others.

A. Psalm 31:19 Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee, which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

B. Psalm 25:8 Good and upright is the Lord: therefore, will he teach sinners in the way.

C. Psalm 107:8-9 Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

D. Psalm 86:5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

E. Matthew 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

F. Believers are to walk in God's Goodness. We are to demonstrate Gods goodness to others.

G. We are to receive his blessings in every area of our lives-spirit, soul body, financially and socially and we share those blessings with others.

H. To be able to express good will towards others we must align our will with Gods will.

I. We must choose to yield to his goodness within us and allow it it to overcome the selfish tendencies of the flesh. We have within us everything it

takes to do good in every situation and that is what the Lord has commanded us to do. He said so in scripture after scripture.

J. Luke 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

k. Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

L. Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

M. 1 Peter 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (NIV)

N. Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

O. James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

P. Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Q. Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, born anew that we may do those good works which God predestined planned beforehand for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live.(AMP)

R. Gods goodness manifested through you changes others! It's a light to those around you that makes them want what you have.

S. So today yield to that supernatural force of goodness within you. Put it on display for all to see.