

## *The Fruit of the Spirit (Part 3)*

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**Introduction:** Is our God making a mark on us?

- A. We continue to emphasize that all of the words we are looking at are a singular result (fruit) of the work of God's Spirit in our lives. **(Gal 5:22-23)**
  - 1. These changes occur in the heart and are seen in the life of every Christian that learns to yield to God and grows up!
  - 2. This kind of change is very distinct from the spirit which comes from the world.
- B. Have you received this mark of the Spirit of God?
  - 1. It is important to ask if who we really are is being changed. **(2 Cor 1:21-22)**
  - 2. "You know to whom a coin belongs by the imprint on it!"

### ***I. The fruit of the Spirit – Kindness***

- A. What is kindness? **χρηστότης** - (1) as a gracious attitude *goodness, kindness* (RO 2.4).. (2) as moral integrity *uprightness, honesty* (2C 6.6); ... *do what is right* (RO 3.12) – **Friberg**
  - 1. "the sympathetic kindness or sweetness of temper which outs others at ease, and shrinks from giving pain." – Plummer
  - 2. It is from this attribute that we know God will forgive us. We also must have this attribute in order for us to forgive.
  - 3. Have you ever known others that you are convinced has no use for you?
- B. In the Old Testament this word is used of God more than anyone else.
  - 1. If all we knew about God that He was morally upright then this aspect of His holiness could bring us into despair at our own sinfulness.
  - 2. When we know that God is kind, then we realize that in spite of our "falling short" that our God wants to aid us! **(Ps 106:1)**
  - 3. It is this quality in our God that draws men to Him!  
**(Ps 69:16-17; 100:4-5; 109:21)**
  - 4. Who can you go to when you are in deep trouble? Who will help you when you come to Him without excuses and with a broken heart?
- C. This kindness brings needed instructions that are "harsh" to the one who does not trust God! **(Ps 119:65-68)**
  - 1. The grace of God and the law of God do go hand in hand.
  - 2. Men cannot see their sinfulness without the truth of God opening a heart to see a painful reality. Those who know the kindness of God do not fear this!
  - 3. Men think they are kinder than God by withholding needed teaching. We need to be reminded of the kindness of God as seen in Jesus.  
**(Mk 10:21-22)**
  - 4. Please do not fear for the lost to hear plain Bible teaching.

- D. God's kindness is universal and unconditional. **(Lk 6:35)**
1. Anyone who has given accurate thought to this can see it. **(Ps 85:12; 104:27-28)**
  2. God also in His kindness brings judgments and removes needed provisions so that man might be humbled and return to Him.
  3. We must be reminded of the certainty of this kindness and the purpose behind it.
  4. Men can view God's kindness as weakness or as a reason to continue in sin. **(Rom 2:4-5)**
- E. Are you and I kind like this?
1. Do you relish the thought of punishing those who have hurt you?
  2. Have you cast off others as trash and wish for bad things to happen to them?
  3. Are you willing and glad to be used as a tool for bringing anyone back to God?
  4. Do you often think about how you can better express yourself to others? **(Col 4:6)**

## ***II. The fruit of the Spirit – Goodness***

- A. What is goodness? Some contrast this word as 'doing' the kindness that is in the heart. **ἀγαθωσύνη**, ης, ἡ (1) as a quality of moral excellence *being good, goodness, uprightness* (RO 15.14); (2) as a quality of relationship with others *willingness to give or share, generosity, goodness* (GA 5.22) - Frieberg
1. If there is a real will in our heart to do something, then we will do it! **(2 Thess 2:16-17)**
  2. We are to be "filled" with it! It is to abound! **(Eph 5:8-9)**
  3. These things imply finding truth, having a zeal for what is right and being willing to stand for it.
  4. "Zeal for goodness and truth, in rebuking, correcting and chastening."  
– Trench
- B. Do you remember when you first became a Christian? **(Rom 15:14)**
1. I wanted to be filled with knowledge and discernment. Why? I wanted others to know God and see Him.
  2. I also wanted to strengthen other Christians on the basis of truth.
  3. Are some of my brethren forsaking goodness so they might not "offend" those caught up in politically favorable sins?
  4. "In our quest for knowledge, beware of becoming smarter than God. In our quest for tolerance, beware of becoming more lenient than God. In our quest for civility, beware of becoming nicer than God." – Ed Bragwell

**Conclusion:** When other begin to see our God in us we will be treated like Jesus was! Many will despise us and some will open their hearts to us.