

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Fruit of Kindness”

Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Samuel 18:1-5

Sermon Series Title: “The Fruit of the Spirit”

Sermon Series Summary: In Christ, we have received new hearts and new life. With this new life, God bears the Fruit of the Spirit. It’s not something we do. It’s something that God grows within us through His Spirit.

Passage Setting: Galatians is a book from Paul expounds the good news of Jesus Christ: our justification by faith, our adoption, and our freedom. Right before the Fruit of the Spirit passage, Paul talks about the works of the flesh.

1 Samuel is the book about the establishment of the kingship of Israel after the period of Judges. Samuel is Israel’s prophetic leader in between the judges and kings. He anoints and installs King Saul as the first king of Israel. Our passage is after the anointing of David as the next king and his defeat of Goliath.

Summary: Kindness is the ability to give to and serve others in a way that makes us vulnerable. The opposite of kindness is envy, which does not allow us to rejoice with others. Counterfeit kindness is service and generosity, motivated by selfish desires. We are able to be kind, because God was first kind to us in Jesus Christ.

Central Truth: *“May the kindness of Christ mark our character and conduct.”*

Sermon Points:

1. What Kindness is Not
2. What Kindness Is
3. The Source of Kindness

Opening Question:

1. Can you list the Fruit of the Spirit? What do you remember regarding the first part of our sermon series last year?

(Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Self-Control

Restorative- the Fruit of the Spirit reflects the heart of God, and it restores our image of God.

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Internal- The fruit are grown from the inside-out, not outside-in.

Singular- Fruit is singular in the Greek. They are linked together. You are as immature as your weakest fruit.

Gradual- It's a process in growing in the Fruit of the Spirit.

Outward- It turns our hearts toward others. The Fruit of the Spirit is given in the context of community.

Grace-centered- It's God who is growing the fruit, not us who are "working" as in the flesh.

Inevitable- God will bring us to completion in the Fruit of the Spirit.

We love as God has loved us in Christ. We can have joy, because God has made us His joy in Christ. We can have peace, because Christ took on all the restlessness and brokenness on the cross. We can have patience, because Christ was patient through His humiliation for our salvation.)

We are finally going back to the Fruit of the Spirit, where we left off with Patience in June. We will be covering Kindness today.

Read Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Samuel 18:1-5.

1. What is the opposite of being kind?

(The opposite is envy and bitterness. We see this in the life of Saul. He was envious of David's fame and popularity, later in chapter 18. This envy leads to bitterness and hatred, as he tries to kill David multiple times.

Envy is powerful and destructive, as it is one of the seven deadly sins. It does not allow us to rejoice with others. It has constantly compare ourselves with others, and we are never content with what we have and who we are.

Envy is rooted in pride, believing we are and deserve better. It reveals our idolatries and desires.)

2. What is the difference between being kind and being nice?

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(Being nice selfishly is a form of counterfeit kindness. We are generous, and we serve our neighbor, but we accomplish these good deeds with selfish intent. We want to be praised, glorified, famous, respected, rewarded, comfortable, etc.

Being nice without a selfish intent is very close to being kind, but it's not quite there as well. There may be a good deed with a neutral or kind motive, however, there isn't a willingness to sacrifice and be uncomfortable for the sake of our neighbor.

Being kind is to give of ourselves and to serve our neighbor, till it hurts and/or is uncomfortable. We do this, because we truly love our neighbor, and we want to pursue their good. We want to glorify God through our kindness. Kindness is not just motive, but it's action. It should season every word and action.)

3. How can we be more kind in our hearts and lives?

(Answers may vary.

We need to come back to the source. We see that kindness is in the character and heart of God. We see that His kindness has brought us into the family of God. We see that He continually pours out His kindness toward us in Christ. And we experience Jesus as our Kind Savior.

He is the greater Jonathan, who laid down His rights as King to take on the role of the servant. He laid down His rights as Son to be condemned as a criminal on the cross. He was forsaken by His Father to love us and be knit to us. He showed kindness to us in our salvation.)

Final Thoughts: *Kindness is in the heart and character of God. We see this embodied in the person and work of Jesus Christ, who laid it all down to save us in His kindness. Through God's kindness for us in Christ, we are able to be truly kind to one another.*