

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.

"We are in our "Fruit of the Spirit" sermon series, and through this series, we see that our growth is not quantified by the works we accomplish but is defined by the fruit God's Spirit bears within us through His Son."

Call: Psalm 103:8

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

Title: "The Fruit of Kindness"

Next Week's Call: Psalm 103:9

Next Week's Text: Galatians 5:22-23, Luke 18:18-30

Next Week's Title: "The Fruit of Goodness"

Future Calls: Psalm 103:10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-18, 19, 20-22

Future Titles: "The Fruit of Faithfulness" (Galatians 5:22-23, John 12:1-8), "The Fruit of Gentleness" (Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Kings 5:1-14), "The Fruit of Self-Control" (Galatians 5:22-23, Genesis 39:1-12)

Fallen Condition Focus: We are envious, or we fall into selfish "nice-ness."

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ embodied the kindness of God and served us selflessly.

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

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.

Reflective Questions:

1. What is the opposite of being kind?
2. What is the difference between being kind and being nice?
3. How can we be more kind in our hearts and lives?

- I. Introduction
 - A. Hook- Fruit of Patience
 - B. Transition- Traits (restorative, internal, singular, gradual, outward, grace-centered, inevitable)
- II. What Kindness Is Not (vv. 2, 5)
 - A. Saul is the embodiment of the opposite of kindness: bitterness and envy.
 - B. Saul is envious of David's fame and popularity (18:8-9). This envy leads to bitterness and hatred, as he tries to kill David multiple times (chs. 19, 23).
 - 1. Envy is powerful and destructive, being listed as one of the seven deadly sins.
 - 2. Envy does not allow us to rejoice with others. We constantly compare ourselves with others, and we are never content with what we have and who we are.
 - 3. Envy is rooted in pride, believing we are or deserve better.
 - a) We see Saul's pride in his defense of his sin (unlawful sacrifice- ch. 13, disobedience- ch. 15).
 - 4. Envy also reveals our deepest desires and idolatries.
 - 5. How do we struggle with envy and bitterness?
 - C. Counterfeit kindness is "selfish niceness." (vv. 2, 5)
 - 1. It seems nice for Saul to keep David at his house and to set him over the men of war.
 - 2. Saul was using David to help him with the harmful spirit through music (16:22) and to win battles wherever he sent him (v. 5).
 - 3. Also, this is the reward for David doing what a king should have done (fight the Philistines and beat Goliath).
 - D. Being nice v. being kind
 - 1. Based on action, motive, and comfort
- III. What Kindness Is (vv. 1, 3-4)
 - A. Jonathan is the crown prince, King Saul's son. He is a man of courage and has previously saved the nation from the Philistines (14:1-23). He is also beloved by the people (14:45).
 - B. Jonathan's soul is knit to the soul of David, and he makes a covenant with David, since he loves David as his own soul.
 - 1. Epitome of intimate, rich friendship
 - 2. Jonathan is at least 27 years older than David.
 - C. He strips himself of his robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt.
 - 1. Some commentators say that this is the abdication of the throne.

- 2. Jonathan gives his expensive/precious armor to David, so the armies will follow David.
- D. Jonathan lays down his rights to give to and serve David. It costs him his throne and ridicule/scorn from his father.
- E. Kindness is to give of ourselves and to serve our neighbor, even if it hurts and/or is uncomfortable for us. We do this, because we truly love our neighbor and we want to pursue their good. We want to glorify God in our kindness.
- F. Kindness should be found in Christians, not just qualitatively but quantitatively, just like salt in an ocean.
- G. Kindness is not just motive, but it's action.
- H. "If goodness is the light of God shining *within* the human heart, then kindness is the light of God shining *from* the human heart. Kindness exists for the benefit of others... Goodness *is*. Kindness *does*." -Aaron Menikoff

IV. The Source of Kindness

- A. Kindness (chesed) is in the character and heart of God (Exo 34:6). It is not just motive for him, but it was action.
- B. God's kindness has brought us into the family of God (Rom 11:22).
- C. He shows us continually His grace and kindness in Christ (Eph 2:7).
- D. God's kindness has come through Jesus Christ (Titus 3:4-7).
 - 1. Jesus laid down every right as King to take on the role of a servant.
 - 2. He laid down His rights as Son to be condemned as a criminal on the cross.
 - 3. He wasn't just ridiculed by His Father, but He was forsaken.
 - 4. He knit Himself to us. He loved us.
 - 5. He is the greater Jonathan to show us kindness.
- E. That is how we are able to be kind to one another (Eph 4:32).