

KINDNESS IS FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Ever meet someone who was gentle and kind? What impression did that person make on you? The Greek word used in the Bible to express kindness or gentleness is a word that describes a kindness or sweetness of temper which puts others at ease. It describes a quality that makes other people feel at ease, knowing that a kind person will be gentle. Christians are to be kind and gentle in their everyday life. What does it mean to be "kind?"

I. KINDNESS AS SEEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. It is used more of God than anyone else in most places:
 - *"...Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever..."* - Psalm 106:1
 - *"...The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works..."* Psalm 145:9
 - It is God's kindness that is being expressed, not so much His moral goodness.
 - It is the kindness of God that moved the Psalmist's heart and which should also move every Christian to worship the Lord - Psalm 100
 - A call to come to the Lord with joy, thanksgiving and praise *"...For the Lord is good..."* - Psalm 100:4-5
2. Writers of the Old Testament saw God's kindness expressed:
 - In nature - Psalm 65:9-13
 - In the events of history - Psalm 145:1-7
 - In the instructions of His Word - Psalm 119:65-68; 25:8
 - In special ways to certain people:
 - to those afflicted who trusted in Him - Nahum 1:7
 - to those who were poor and followed Him - Psalm 68:10
 - to all those who hoped and trusted in Him - Psalm 34:8
 - to all those who feared Him - Psalm 31:19

II. KINDNESS AS SEEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. The kindness of God is revealed:
 - in nature, even to ungrateful and evil people - Luke 6:35; Matthew 5:45
 - in the giving of His Son, in whom salvation is found - Titus 3:4-7
 - in the ages that are yet to come - Ephesians 2:7
2. Since God is kind, so should His children (Christians) also be kind:
 - Kindness is part of the Christian clothing (garment) he/she is to wear - Colossians 3:12
 - Kindness is to characterize the Christian's treatment of another person - Ephesians 4:31-31

CONCLUSION:

1. Do YOU act with kindness toward others? Are they put "at ease" when around you? OR do YOU use sharp words, cold shoulders, or snub them?
2. Christian kindness is treating others in the same way God has treated every Christian. How have YOU responded to God's kindness to YOU?