"THE FRUIT OF KINDNESS"

The Fruits of the Spirit, Part 5

I. The MEANING of Kindness

A kind person is one who, in the uprightness and integrity of his heart, graciously and mercifully extends kind words and works to others who do or do not deserve such treatment. Such a person is useful to God and beneficial to society.

The word "kindness" (*chrestotes*) has a wide range of nuances: "goodness" (Rom. 2:4 - *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?")*); "graciousness" (I Pet. 2:3 - *"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious"*); "easy" (Mt. 11:30 - *"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light"*); "kindness" (Eph. 2:7 - *"That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace, in his kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus."*).

True kindness does not come naturally (Rom. 3:12 - *"They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."*).

II. The MODEL of Kindness (I Pet. 2:3 - *"If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."*) (cp. Ps. 117:1-2)

A. God is kind to unthankful and evil people (Lk. 6:35 - *"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."*)

B. God is kind in giving time and opportunity to repent to the unrepentant (Rom. 2:4 - *"Or despisesth thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"*)

C. God is kind in giving salvation by grace to unworthy sinners (Eph. 2:7 - "That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace, in his kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus.") (SEE: Titus 3:2-8, *v. 4)

III. The MANNER of Kindness

A. A kind person has a forgiving heart (Eph. 4:32 - "And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you.")

B. A kind person has a giving heart (II Sam. 9:1-7)

C. A kind person has a loving heart (I Cor. 13:4a - "*Charity suffereth long, and is*

kind...")

D. A kind person has a patient heart (II Cor. 6:6 - *"By pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned"*)

E. A kind person has a gracious heart (II Chron. 10:7 - *"And they spake unto him, saying, If thou be kind to this people, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be thy servants for ever."*)

F. A kind person has a gracious tongue (Prov. 31:26 - *"the law of kindness is in her tongue"*)

III. The MENACE to Kindness

*Evil Friends (I Cor. 15:33 - *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."*)

IV. The MEANS to Kindness

A. Recognize God's kindness to you (Lk. 6:35-36) (cp. Eph. 4:32)

B. Deliberately decide to "put on" kindness each morning (Col. 3:12 - *"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering"*)

C. Daily yield to God's Spirit (Ga. 5:22 - *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith..."*)

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A. God is kind to _____ and _____ people (Lk. 6:35)

B. God is kind in giving _____ and _____ to repent to the unrepentant (Rom. 2:4)

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