

KINDNESS AND GOODNESS

Oct. 12, 2008

Text: Galatians 5: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ⁱ

Purpose: I want us to see the many opportunities for us to express kindness and goodness to others.

Introduction: The first triad referred to virtues that find their source in God and they are the foundation of all that follows – [second triad] patience, kindness, goodness, [third triad] faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. ⁱⁱ

1. Definition of Terms

A. Kindness - χρηστοτη□

1. Noun, nominative, singular, feminine
2. Moral goodness; integrity, benevolence, kindness, loving; generosity; to provide something as and act of kindness. The Holy Spirit's kind disposition and His benefits and gifts to us! [Rom. 2: ⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? ⁱⁱⁱ ; Eph. 2:⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ^{iv}]
3. Examples:
 - a Many of the Lord's people and many are here at Grace!
 - b Our *kind dispositions* in all of our people encounters.

B. Goodness - αγαθωσυνη

1. Noun, nominative, singular, feminine
2. This is the quality of moral excellence, goodness and generosity towards others. But the emphasis of the word is goodness in action, expressing itself in deeds in grace and tenderness.
3. Trench, following Jerome, distinguishes between *chrēstotēs* and *agathōsunē* in that the former describes the kindlier aspects of goodness, the latter includes also the sterner qualities by which doing good to others is not necessarily by gentle means. He illustrates the latter by the act of Christ in cleansing the temple, Matt. 21:12, 13, and in denouncing the Scribes and Pharisees, 23:13-29; but *chrēstotēs* by His dealings with the penitent woman, Luke 7:37-50. Lightfoot regards *chrēstotēs* as a kindly disposition towards others; *agathōsunē* as a kindly activity on their behalf. ^v
4. Examples:
 - a Providing a meal for the Williams' family
 - b Missionary support
 - c Disciplines

2. Application of Kindness and Goodness to “our” Personal Lives.

A. Kindness:

1. Eph. 5: ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ^{vi}
2. Col. 3: ¹² Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ^{vii}
3. Titus 3: Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.
³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. ^{viii}
4. 2 Cor. 6: As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. ² For he says,

“In the time of my favor I heard you,
 and in the day of salvation I helped you.”^b

 I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

Paul’s Hardships

³ We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. ^{ix}

B. Goodness:

1. Romans 15: ¹⁴ I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. ^x
2. 2 Thess. 1: ¹¹ With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. ^{xi}

WHAT ARE THE “LIFE PRINCIPLES” THAT I NEED TO FOCUS UPON AND DO?

1. We must helplessly depend upon the Holy Spirit to make our *disposition of kindness* like His!
2. We must helplessly depend upon the Holy Spirit to make us *sensitive* to the opportunities to expressing *goodness* in deeds of grace and tenderness towards others.
3. Oh the thrill of *cooperating with the Holy Spirit in conforming us to His character and Christ's!*

ⁱ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ga 5:22-23

ⁱⁱ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ga 5:22-23

ⁱⁱⁱ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ro 2:4

^{iv} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Eph 2:3-7

^v Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

^{vi} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Eph 5:8-10

^{vii} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Col 3:12

^{viii} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Tit 3:1-8

^b Isaiah 49:8

^{ix} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 2 Co 6:1-10

^x *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ro 15:14

^{xi} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 2 Th 1:11