

Kindness/Goodness

Galatians 6.10; Luke 6.27-36

Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but **godliness** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4.7b-8

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...** Galatians 5.22-23

Kindness and goodness are so closely related that they are often used interchangeably. Kindness and goodness involve an active desire to recognize and meet the needs of others.

- **Kindness** is a sincere desire for the happiness of others; **goodness** is the activity calculated to advance that happiness.
- **Kindness** is the inner disposition, created by the Holy Spirit, that causes us to be sensitive to the needs of others, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual.
- **Goodness** is kindness in action, words and deeds. Because of this close relationship, we often use the two words interchangeably.

God's Unfailing Kindness

*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. But when the **kindness and love of God our Savior appeared**, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us...* Titus 3.3-5a

*And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 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.* Ephesians 2.6-7

In seeing how Christ is kind toward us, we have the pattern set before us to both motivate us and instruct us. So, how is Christ kind toward us?

- **He Understands My Weaknesses – Yet Extends Mercy And Grace**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5.8

- **He Forgives My Sin – Even Though I Do Not Deserve It**

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4.32; Romans 3.22-24

- **He Accepts Me As I Am – A Work In Progress**

Accept one another then just as Christ has accepted you. Romans 15.7; 1 Peter 2.17

Created In Christ Jesus To Do Good Works

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* Ephesians 2.8-10

*No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her **good deeds**, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.* 1 Timothy 5.9-10

*Let us not become weary in **doing good**, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, **let us do good to all people**, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.* Galatians 6.9-10

*In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), **who was always doing good and helping the poor.*** Acts 9.36