

“Kindness and Goodness—The Twin Fruits!”

Believe: Who am I Becoming?—Part 7

Hebrews 6:19-20

KEY VERSE

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. 1 Thessalonians 5:15

KEY QUESTION

What does it mean to do the right thing? How do you know?

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?"

Jesus answered. "No one is good— except God alone.

Mark 10:17-18

Definition: Kindness and Goodness are: consistently reflecting the character of God in our motives and actions.

***Kindness not only says good morning,
goodness makes the coffee.***

KEY IDEA

I choose to be kind and good in my relationships with others.

Word Pictures:

Loving-kindness. (*Chesed*)—(Hebrew) loyal love over the long haul, it reflects the character of God from the inside out. Most often translated loving-kindness.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... *Galatians 5:22-23*

Kindness: (*Chrestos*) relates to tender concern for others. It has nothing to do with weakness or lack of conviction but is the genuine desire of a believer to treat others gently, just as the Lord treats him.

Goodness: (*Agathos*) has to do with moral and spiritual excellence that is known by its sweetness and active kindness.

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. *Luke 6:45*

There are times when an ulterior motive makes an act of kindness artificial.

Like a coating of glaze over earthenware are fervent lips with an evil heart. A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but in his heart he harbors deceit. Though his speech is charming, do not believe him, for seven abominations fill his heart.

Proverbs 26:23-25

Artificial fruit will never taste good to the soul!

Question: Are we kind of good people or good and kind people?

***Kindness doesn't come easy in a
"lookout for yourself" world.***

*"Kindness is a language the deaf can hear
and the blind can see."*

Mark Twain

Love is patient, love is kind...

1 Corinthians 13:4

1. God is kind.

- A wedding (They tasted the kindness of Christ.) *John 2*
- A woman caught in adultery (In the midst of unkindness, she met the kindness of Christ.)
John 8
- A demon-possessed man (He became a witness to the kindness of Christ.) *Luke 8*

2. Be kind.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

We are never more like Christ than when we are kind.

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. 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.

Ephesians 2:6-9

Point: Love talked about is easily ignored. But love demonstrated is irresistible. Jesus not only talked about love, He demonstrated it to us.

3. Speak kind words.

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
Proverbs 12:18

He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.
Proverbs 13:3

The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.
Proverbs 15:4

What difference does it make in the way I live?

- **Out of a pure heart to do the right thing for others, we seek to build others up.**
(1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- **Out of a pure heart to do the right thing for others, we do not pay back wrong for wrong.**
(Romans 12:19-21)
- **Out of a pure heart to do the right thing for others, we do the hard thing out of love.**
(Luke 6:27-31)

Don't just tell people about Jesus, be Jesus to them. Jesus' way to eliminate enemies is to love them. Is Jesus nuts or up to something special and supernatural? This command of Jesus needs practice by those who dare to be radical enough to do so.

"If you want to be holy be kind."
Fredrick Buechner