

FRUIT OF THE WEEK: KINDNESS

Matthew 7:12 “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

As the popular words of 1 Corinthians 13:4 states, “Love is patient, love is kind...” This verse reminds us that love cannot exist without patience or kindness. Being kind to others is essential to our Christian character.

Truthfully, the concept of kindness is quite simple. It’s woven into ‘The Golden Rule’ and can be summed up by Jesus’ command to do for others as you would like them to do for you (Matt. 7:12).

What makes the act of kindness so difficult at times is the fact that it requires us to take our eyes off of ourselves and put them on others, placing their needs above our own. And let’s be honest, that’s not something we generally like to do. But as followers of Christ, we’re challenged to go against what may be “natural” and pursue what is supernatural - pursue the ways of God - until that becomes our new normal.

There is no better example to look to for kindness other than God himself. God is the full essence of loving kindness. We learn from God that kindness is a trait that is closely related to generosity. It is a combination of both grace and mercy. [To put it simply, grace can be defined as receiving favor or a gift that we do not deserve, whereas mercy can be defined as not receiving a punishment that we do deserve].

God’s kindness is available to everyone because salvation is available to everyone through faith in Jesus Christ. When we repent and believe, God shows us mercy by having compassion on us and forgiving us of our sins. The blood of Jesus washes us clean and we no longer have to endure the punishment of our sin. Not only that, but God showers us with grace, offering us the gift of an abundant life here on earth and an eternal life in heaven sharing in the glory and riches of Jesus Christ.

We don’t deserve the benefits of salvation, but thankfully we get to enjoy them because of God’s great kindness. God *chooses* to continually show kindness to His creation. And just like Him, we too have a choice as to whether or not we will show kindness. **So what choice will you make?**

The more we choose to have a generous spirit and do for others as we would like them to do for us, kindness will become a habit that shapes our character after that of Christ. This week, focus on the ways you can be a little less self-centered and a little more kingdom-centered as you fix your eyes on God’s loving kindness!