

The Fruit from the Spirit

Kindness

- I. The Fruit from the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
 1. One fruit, nine facets, a divine enabling, all rational, not emotional 'feelings'.
 2. All nine facets operate in harmony.
- II. The facet of Kindness (Gal. 5:22).
 1. **Kindness is a gracious attitude toward people who do not necessarily warrant it.** This civil disposition prevents unnecessary offense or pain to other Christians.
 2. The antonym of kindness is "severity", a harshness, roughness, or sharpness of demeanor (Rom. 11:22).
 3. The kindness of God leads one to salvation—change of mind toward God (Rom. 2:4).
 - 1) Kindness is in harmony with 'forbearance' and 'longsuffering'.
 - 2) The change of mind from godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:10).
 4. The natural man cannot craft kindness toward God (Rom. 3:12).
 5. Kindness, along with meekness, longsuffering, and forbearance is used to practice the New Commandment (Col. 3:12-14).
 6. When Christ appeared to Paul, He showed fondness and kindness (Tit. 3:4).
 7. In the future, God the Father will show forth His grace and kindness toward the Church (Eph. 2:7).
 8. From God's attribute of love comes grace and kindness.
- III. Kindness working in concert with other facets of the Fruit from the Spirit to fulfill the New Commandment.
 1. Love is the overarching motivator having a purpose to aide and in the spiritual growth of other Christians (Jn. 13:34; 1 Cor. 13:7; 1 Jn. 3:18; Eph. 4:16).
 2. Joy allows for the acceptance of all circumstances and allows no resentment to disrupt the task (Phil. 2:17-18).
 3. Peace, an undisturbed mind, prevents emotional interference with the task (Phil. 4:7).
 4. Longsuffering keeps the focus on the spiritual goal, disallowing circumstance or people to present a hindrance in accomplishing the goal (Jam. 5:7-10).