

The Fruit of the Spirit - Sharing God with our world Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness

- *Fruit of relationship toward others*

Galatians 5:13-26

Fruit of the Spirit

Review - naturally produced when our relationship with God is intact.

Love - self-sacrificing and unchanging - **God the Father** in us

Joy --inner rejoicing that abides through our relationship with **Jesus**

Peace - inner quietness empowered by the **Holy Spirit** in us

I. Longsuffering (Makrothumia) - Enduring with forbearance and joy

A. Biblical definition

2 words used in New Testament - one means hopeful patience

This one literally means "long temper" - suffering long

It is a part of God's self-description in Exodus 34- **slow to anger**

Use 14 times in New Testament

- 3 times of God's patience

Examples: **1 Peter 3:20** **2 Peter 3:9**

-2 times of the patience of Christ. Example: **1 Timothy 1:16**

- As chosen followers we are to put it on **Colossians 3:12**

B. Biblical example

Matthew 18:21-35

Debtor begged king for patience but refused the same to others

C. Biblical scope

1. Longsuffering in nuisances and irritations

2. Longsuffering in boredom

3. Longsuffering in suffering

II. Kindness (chrestotes) -reacting with charity and benevolence

Literally mean usefulness and speaks of moral excellence

A. Biblical definition

Part of the self-description of God **Exodus 34** -

Used 10 times in the New Testament

6 times speak of the character of God

Example: **Romans 11:22**

Romans 2:4 says it leads us to repentance

We are admonished to react in love to those who mistreat us

He said it was treating others as we desire to be treated

C. Biblical Scope

Kindness makes a person attractive. If you would win the world, melt it, do not hammer it. - Alexander Maclaren

1. Kindness in words - Do not speak evil of others

2. Kindness in actions - **Romans 12:20**

3. Kindness in attitude - think kindly of others

Remember there is no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end. Scott Adams

III. Goodness (agathosune) Reaching out to do good to others

-especially to those who do not deserve it

A. Biblical definition

The ability to absorb evil and reach out in love.

It relates the generosity of God with our generosity

Part of the self-description in **Exodus 34** - abounding goodness

Psalms 86:5 The Lord is good to all

Deuteronomy 6:24 - commandments are for our good.

Acts 10:38 - Jesus went about doing good

New Testament word used only 4 times

Of Fruit in **Galatians 5:22** and **Ephesians 5:9**

Always connected to truth

Romans 15:14 says believers are filled with it

2Thessalonians 1:11 says God will fulfill our desire for it

B. Biblical example

James 2:14-17

We are admonished to feed and clothe those in need

We are to do good to all -especially believers Galatians 6:10

C. Biblical scope

1. Do all the good we can

2. Do good to all - regardless of who they are

3. Do good especially to believers

Conclusions about the Fruits - Longsuffering, Kindness and Goodness

1. All are characteristics of God demonstrated in His love to us

2. All seen in us will point men to God

3. All begin with a heart of compassion that comes from God

4. All cost us

Time

Energy

Resources