

## Sermon Discussion Guide:

# Kindness

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Scripture: **Proverbs 21:21**

Series: **The Fruit of the Spirit**

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### OVERVIEW

Many would say, “I want to be kind because it feels good to make someone’s life better.” And so one might help prepare food at a homeless shelter or help shovel a good neighbor’s driveway on a relaxed Saturday morning. These are all thoughtful ways to serve others, however, biblical kindness means more than helping others on our schedule or when it’s convenient and easy for us. Biblical kindness is a God-given duty and a sacrificial one. It is assistance to the afflicted, but more so a generosity to the undeserving. Biblical kindness is commanded by God, rewarded by God, and perfected in God. **Kindness is a sympathetic generosity that offers undeserved help.**

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### CORROBORATING TEXTS

James 2:15-17; Ephesians 4:32; Collosians 3:12-13; Micah 6:8; Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 6:32-36; Titus 3:4-7; Romans 2:1-4

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Consider this commonly-used scenario: a homeless person approaches you and asks if you can help them. Considering the definition of kindness as shared in the sermon, in this scenario: (a.) What would it mean to be sympathetic? (b.) What would generosity look like? (c.) What would undeserved mean? (d.) What can help look like?
2. Most people would say that the reason they publicly showcase their acts of kindness or good deeds (i.e. social media, telling others) is to be an inspiration to others and to motivate others to do the same. Is this still an act of kindness? Why or why not?
3. It may seem that we should be kind to someone only in a time of need. Considering Proverbs 21:21, discuss the “right” time to show kindness. Is there a “right” time to be kind?
4. The ways we have benefited from the kindness of God are great in number: the Holy Spirit pursued us; our sins are forgiven; Christians will no longer stand condemned before God; we receive grace upon grace during trials; God does not deal with us according to our sins. What would then be a reason to withhold kindness towards others? Why is it so difficult to extend kindness to others—especially those we feel are undeserving?
5. There is a popular saying, “Preach the gospel at all times and if necessary use words”. Does this mean loving and showing kindness is preaching the gospel? How do acts of kindness play a part in someone putting their faith in Jesus Christ?
6. We all have an innate desire to be known as “kind.” In light of the sermon, what do you want to be known and remembered for?