

summer teaching series

got fruit?

a life never out of season.



“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

Galatians 5:22



Gentleness is about how
one goes about action.

Kindness is about what
actions one takes and why.



Kindness shows benevolence.
Gentleness shows tenderness.



“Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children.”

Ephesians 4:31—5:1



Kindness in this verse is linked
with the heart.



The kindness of God is radical and completely counterintuitive. It holds strong; it continues to remain even in the face of harshness.



Kindness is that great jujitsu response to the harshness of the world. Jujitsu is the counterintuitive Japanese martial art that refuses to forcefully oppose the attack of the enemy, but uses the momentum of the attacker's energy against them. Literally, jujitsu is the art of softness.



It's the kind of strength that chooses to believe something can be gained when we respond to the harsh world not with greater harshness but with counterintuitive generosity.



Kindness flows from a transformed heart;
from the heart that has been overwhelmed
by the kindness of God, and which seeks to
show that very kindness to others.



Rules or relationship?

Kindness always moves toward relationship. The Pharisee and the priest claimed to know the law and the truth. The Samaritan moved it to action. **Kindness is love in action.**



“Kindness is when you loan your strength to someone else instead of reminding them of their weakness.”

—**Andy Stanley**



Kindness gives you thick skin. It disarms those it reaches. It breaks down barriers.



How you see people will determine
how you treat them.



When we see someone, we can't understand the battle they are fighting. And everyone is fighting a battle of some kind. **Our ability to be kind is determined by what we see.**



“Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and His disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’...”

Mark 10:46–52



“...‘Be quiet!’ many of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ When Jesus heard him, He stopped and said, ‘Tell him to come here.’ So they called the blind man. ‘Cheer up,’ they said. ‘Come on, he’s calling you!’ Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus....”

Mark 10:46–52



“...‘What do you want me to do for you?’ Jesus asked. ‘My Rabbi,’ the blind man said, ‘I want to see!’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Go, for your faith has healed you.’ Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.”

Mark 10:46–52



Kindness is the ability to act for the welfare of those taxing your patience.



“Kindness is a superpower. It is contagious, supernatural and transformational. True kindness always strengthens and empowers, never weakens. It changes you, not just others. It melts hardness and makes gentleness immensely powerful. Kindness has a power to transform that is unparalleled in social science.”

—**Shaunti Feldman, *The Kindness Challenge***



If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but I'm not kind, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or clanging cymbal.

Nothing I say makes a difference.



I may have the gift of prophecy. I may understand all the secret things of God and have all knowledge. But if I do not have love, then I am nothing.

Nothing I know makes a difference.



*Even if I had the gift of faith so that
I could speak to a mountain and make
it move, I would still be worth nothing
at all without kindness.*

Nothing I believe makes a difference.



*If I gave everything I have to the poor,
and even sacrificed my body,
but I was not kind...*

Nothing I give makes a difference.



We need to avoid putting kindness on a shelf that we can all easily reach.



Are we willing to both receive the kindness God has to offer and then give back over and over again?



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