



I. REVIEW/INTRO

A. Living under the influence

Ephesians 5:18 (NKJV) And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

- Whatever controls you will eventually shape you

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT) ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

B. Every generation defines words differently.

- Words change and meanings evolve because culture constantly rewrites definitions.
- If we let culture redefine words, eventually we'll misunderstand God's Word
- If culture changes the definition of kindness... eventually people will expect Christians to practice a kindness that the Bible never describes

C. The one who planted the tree gets to describe the fruit

II. THE FRUIT OF KINDNESS

A. What is Kindness?

B. The biblical definition of Kindness

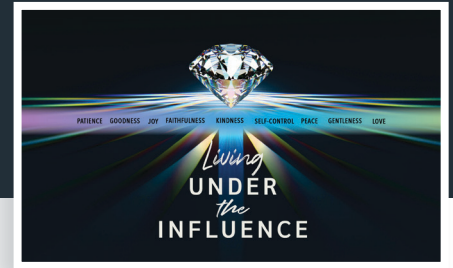
The Greek Word for Kindness: *Chrēstotēs* In the first century, this wasn't a sentimental word. It described someone who was benevolent, gracious, useful, generous, and actively seeking another person's good. One lexicon defines it as: "Meeting real needs in a way that reflects genuine care and moral excellence." Another emphasizes that it is goodness expressed in action.

Chrēstotēs wasn't about appearing pleasant; it was about using your position, resources, or influence to bring genuine good into someone else's life

C. The Kindness of God

Romans 2:4 (NIV) Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

- God's kindness has a destination, it's moving toward Repentance.



D. Kindness leads to repentance

The Greek word for Repentance: metanoia, Meta means change, **Nous** means mind, literally, **a change of mind.**

- **God's kindness doesn't eliminate repentance, It produces it.**

III. THE KINDNESS OF JESUS

A. Truth and love

- Truth without kindness wounds people
- Kindness without truth is sentimentality

B. Jesus Never Separated Love from Truth

- Truth spoken from love heals.

C. Jesus is our example

- The woman caught in the act of adultery (John 8)
 - Kindness doesn't remove condemnation, it removes what's destroying us
- The woman at the well (John 4)
 - Jesus wasn't exposing her to shame her, but to heal her.
- Kindness opens the door so truth can walk in. Truth then opens the door so transformation can begin.

D. Why did God put His kindness in us?

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 (NIRV) You yourselves are our letter. You are written on our hearts. Everyone knows you and reads you.³ You make it clear that you are a letter from Christ. You are the result of our work for God. You are a letter written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God. You are a letter written not on tablets made out of stone but on human hearts.

- The question isn't, "Are they reading?" The question is, "What are they reading?"

Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

GOODNESS AND KINDNESS: Goodness enlarges people's view of God, and kindness takes goodness and puts shoes on it.