



Series: The Fruit of the Spirit  
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS KINDNESS

- In developing our 2009-2010 theme, "Living Fully – Living Holy," we have seen that a holy lifestyle comes from inner transformation made possible by the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- To see the kind of transformation the Holy Spirit wants to accomplish, we are in a series of sermons on the fruit of the Spirit. Today we will explore the fruit of kindness.
- While kindness is not an easy concept to define, its word origin and Biblical usage suggest the following...
  - It is connected to the concept of being "fit for use" and thus is other-directed.
  - It is used in contrast to harshness or sternness and thus denotes graciousness. (Ephesians 4:32)
  - It is rooted in God's kindness. (Ephesians 2:7)

**God grows the fruit of kindness in our lives by enabling us to see people through His gracious eyes and act toward them in a gracious manner.**

How does God see people?

**God sees each person created in His image and worthy of His costly love.**

**(Titus 3:3-5; Psalm 8:3-5)**

- This challenges us to pray, "Lord, teach me to value people as you value people."

**God sees each person as a unique individual with an important life story.**

**(Psalm 139:13-16; Luke 19:2-7)**

- This challenges us to pray, "Lord, teach me to listen and hear what You need me to hear."

To whom are we called to express God's kindness?

- To those closest to us.
- To those in our regular relational webs whom we tend to see only as cogs in the machine of our society.
- To those who need Jesus. (Romans 2:4)

**Discussion Starters:**

Kindness flows from the character of God and challenges us to see people through His eyes.

What keeps you from seeing people through the eyes of Jesus?

Kindness listens to people and seeks to understand them?

How good are you at really listening to people?

Why are we sometimes least likely to think about being kind to those closest to us?