

# the fruit of the spirit

## (part 3 – kindness, goodness, faithfulness)

### recap

*Read Galatians 5:16-26 again*

1. Quickly summarise from the past two weeks what Christian 'love', 'joy', 'peace' and 'patience' should look like.

*A quick recap of the past two weeks to remind them what we learnt about these Christian characteristics.*

2. How do the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit compare with the acts of the sinful nature listed in verse 19?

*A question to keep the fruit of the Spirit in the context of the passage. The characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit are in stark contrast to the acts of the sinful nature. They are basically the opposite, and so is the result of living by them.*

### kindness

3. What does the bible have to say about kindness in the following passages? (Take note of what it might look like, and what our motivations should be)

Colossians 3:12-14 - *Take note of the other words that are associated with 'kindness' (some of which we have looked at in the past two weeks). Bearing with one another and forgiveness are important.*

Ephesians 4:31-32 - *Note the things that 'kindness' isn't (verse 31). Similar to the passage above, but with the added emphasis that Jesus is our model of how we are to do this. This should be our motivation.*

4. How would you say that Christian kindness differs from the dictionary definition below?

**kindness** *n.* 1. the act of being considerate, friendly, and helpful.

*In many ways what 'kindness' actually means isn't all that different from how the world would understand it. The important thing is our motivation and reason for acting towards others in a manner of kindness.*

### goodness

5. How would someone who is not a Christian understand what is meant by having the characteristic of 'goodness'?

*To get thinking about what the world means when it says something or someone is 'good'. This will be important in comparing to what the bible has to say.*

6. What do we learn about the quality of 'goodness' from the following passages? *(Don't spend time going massively in-depth here)*
- Mark 10:18 - *God alone is truly 'good'.*
- Genesis 1:31 - *Everything that God has created is very good. (1 Tim 4:4 also)*
- James 1:16-17 - *Everything 'good' that we have is provided by God.*
- Ephesians 2:8-10 - *We are created in order to do 'good works' for God's sake.*

7. What then are the key differences between the Christian characteristic of 'goodness', and the way in which the world would understand it?

*A chance make some comparisons between the above two questions. Things such as moral vs spiritual goodness will be of importance here. You might like to draw out some practical application at this point too.*

## **faithfulness**

**faithfulness** *n.* 1. the act of remaining true or loyal.

8. In light of the above definition, what might it mean for a Christian to display the characteristic of 'faithfulness'?

*This is intentionally a chance for open discussion. You might like to draw out things such as God is faithful to us (Psalm 145:13); we as Christians are to be faithful to God; we are to be faithful to our words; we are to be faithful in our relationships with others (not just meaning boyfriend / girlfriend etc).*

## **application**

9. Put the name of each person in your group who is present on a slip of paper, and put the names into a hat. Each person is to draw out the name of someone else. You are to think of a way that you can practically display the characteristics of kindness, goodness and faithfulness to them throughout the next week.

*Encourage the kids (and us as leaders) to make sure we actually put this in to practice! Suggestions of things to do might be – wash the other persons car; have them over for dinner before bible study youth group; catch up with them during the week to read the bible etc etc. There are endless possibilities!*