

MONDAY 11.13.23 - Luke 6:36

You are set apart for the service of Christ and are commanded to walk in the way that God desires you to walk. One of the many ways that you are instructed to imitate the Son of God is to be merciful. When you think about your life and the mistakes you have made (and continue to make), God is correct in His judgement that you stand guilty before Him. Yet He responds with mercy and forgives you. But here’s the thing... there can be no mercy without judgement. Mercy can only be shown if a judgement has been made that you are guilty. There can be judgement without mercy but there can be no mercy without judgement. The truth is that you judge others you encounter when they say or do things that hurt you. It is human for you to judge others because that is part of the process of understanding what has happened. The question is... what are you going to do with that judgement? Are you going to condemn or are you going to be merciful?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 11.14.23 - Ephesians 4:32

³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Dr. Underwood, the mission speaker at our mission conference, made the following statement in a meeting with the church leadership. “Shame is like the referee who blows the whistle when you commit a penalty. Grace is like your teammate who comes along side of you and blocks for you so you can do your best.” What a great perspective on our Christian lives. So often we take on the role of referee and are quick to blow the whistle when a fellow brother or sister has committed an offence. How much better would it be for us to show an attitude of grace and forgiveness as we come

alongside of our brother or sister in love and do all we can to help them become all they can be for Christ? My prayer for you today is that you will purpose to be a teammate rather than a referee.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY - 11.15.23 - Galatians 5:22

Although the word “good” appears many times in the Bible, the word “goodness” is rarely seen. It is found 13 times in the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament), three time in the New Testament other than in the list of the fruit of the Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:17, Ephesians 5:9, Romans 15:14), and not at all in secular Greek. In our relationship to the Lord, goodness describes God’s generosity toward us as believers. It’s the opposite of being miserly. Goodness is the generosity that springs from the heart that is kind. A good and generous person realizes that one of the reasons the Lord has put us here on earth is to help others. Generosity is an openhearted and openhanded attitude that is reflected in truly godly people. In what way will you demonstrate generosity this week to those in your home, workplace, neighborhood, or church?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 11.16.23 - Micah 6:8

Goodness is a fruit of the Sprit. It is not created by the world or the flesh. God’s Word, which we meditate on day and

night, tells us what is good. Yet as we aspire to reach that lofty, perfect goal, our flesh gets in the way. Often, we may despair of our personal inability to achieve the goodness required by our God, even with the help of the Spirit. But God admonishes us not to be so concerned as to despair. He has shown us the One who is Good. We believe in Him and trust our future to Him. Daily, our duty is to live by faith: act justly and honestly with others, love kindness and avoid evil, and not be haughty but walk humbly with our God.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY- 11.17.23 - Psalm 34:14

Today’s verse contains instructions of David for learning to have reverence for the Lord (vs 11). The first part of the verse contains two imperative or command statements that are direct opposites and require action. First he says, “Depart from evil.” We are to turn our backs to the temptations and evil opportunities around us. This is to be a deliberate action to leave it behind and cease being in a position to be tempted. When we turn from evil, we are to follow the second command to “do good.” Again it is an action. Make a choice to follow the instructions of the Lord as we are led by the scripture we read and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. As we practice these commands, the fruit of the Spirit is evident. As a result, others will see Jesus through us.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
NURSERY (through Age 3)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** FALL QUARTER
LOCATION: B11 with Bob Lehman
Explore the Bible - *Mark's Gospel*
LOCATION: B8-10 with David Hamilton
Bible Studies for Life (Begins Oct. 22nd)
LOCATION: B1-2 with Chris Domenico & Joel Day
Following Jesus in a Digital Age (Begins Oct. 15th)

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs
- Adults** Dive Deep with Doug
LOCATION: Worship Center

E2 FALL SMALL GROUP

- Women's** TUESDAY EVENING STUDY
God of Deliverance - Study in Exodus 9/5 - 11/28
in B8-10- with Denise Whitfield & Elizabeth Williams.
- Women's** THURSDAY MORNING STUDY
Abide -Study of the letters of 1,2,& 3 John - abide in the truth. 9/7 - 11/30 at 9am in B 8-10.

ADVENT 2023

- Wednesday** EVENING SMALL GROUP
Because of Bethlehem by Max Lucado - Discover the hope and promises of Christmas because of one baby born in Bethlehem. 11/29 - 12/20 at 6:30pm in B8-10 with Barry Wills.

Galatians 5:22-23
The Fruit of Kindness

"But the fruit of the Spirit is ... kindness"

The Greek word for "kindness" is *chrastos*. It means to be gracious, pleasant, benevolent. Kindness has the idea of being concerned enough about others that we treat them with graciousness and generosity.

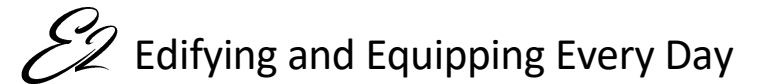
How do you do that exactly? In what ways can you demonstrate kindness to others?

There's a miracle in the life of Christ that illustrates this fruit of the Spirit. By following the example of Jesus, you learn to express kindness in four ways.

1. A _____ (vv 11-13a)
2. C _____ (v 13b)
3. C _____ (v 13c)
4. A _____ (vv 14-15)

When the Romans spoke of those early followers of Jesus, they often confused the word *chrastos*—"kindness" with *christos*—which is Greek for "Christ." In the first century, the believers were so kind that many people didn't know whether their title was "followers of Christ" or "followers of kindness."

Does your life characterize this fruit of the Spirit to the extent that others recognize you as a follower of Jesus?



TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



November 13th - November 17th

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (*E2*) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message, "The Fruit of Kindness" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 11.19, "The Fruit of Goodness" with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY GROUPS OR CLASSES,
PLEASE USE THE CONNECT CARD IN YOUR BULLETIN. THANK YOU!