

Women's Ministry Discussion Questions

To encourage reflection, sharing, and connection to God and other women through his Word.

Titus 2-Gether March 2023, Session 6: "To Be Kind" with Mary

Titus 2:3-5: "3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine.

They are to teach what is good,

4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, **5** to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

1. How does God define Kindness? "Kind" in the Greek: "agathos" = good, intrinsically good, good in nature, good whether it be seen to be so or not.

Pastor Stephen Witmer defines Christian Kindness: ***It's a supernaturally generous orientation of our hearts toward other people, even when they don't deserve it and don't love us in return.***

2. What Scripture comes to mind when you think of the topic of Kindness?
(see Selected Scripture handout if desired)
3. What is the Opposite of Kindness?
4. How has God shown you Kindness this past week?

5. How have you extended his kindness to your husband, children, and/or other family members/friends/neighbors this past week?

6. Do you struggle to think kindly of or show kindness towards someone in your home or close relations? Why? When do you see this struggle occurring more?

7. How can you submit this relationship to the Lord and seek to grow in kindness and grace towards this person? Are you praying for them in their weakness/sin/struggles that might be a part of this situation?

8. Envision your closest relationships a year from now - what growth would you like to see the Lord bring? How can you take steps this week towards growing in this goal of greater kindness?

“House Rules for MEFC”

1. Love one another with brotherly affection - Romans 12:10
2. Consider others more significant than yourselves - Philippians 2:3
3. Rejoice with those who rejoice - Romans 15:15
4. Weep with those who weep - Romans 15:15
5. Be at peace with one another - Mark 9:50
6. Speak the truth to one another - Ephesians 4:25
7. Confess your sins to one another - James 5:16
8. Pray for one another - James 5:16
9. Instruct one another - Romans 15:14
10. Build one another up - 1 Thessalonians 5:11
11. Sing to one another - Ephesians 5:19
12. Seek to do good to one another - 1 Thessalonians 5:15
13. Outdo one another in showing honor - Romans 12: 10
14. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling - 1 Peter 4:9
15. Wash one another's feet - John 13:14

Selected Scripture on Kindness

Titus 3:3-8

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. **4** But when the ***goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared***, **5** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. **8** The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to **love kindness**, and to walk humbly with your God?

Zechariah 7:8-10

8 And the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, **9** “Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, **show kindness** and mercy to one another, **10** do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.”

Romans 2:3-4

Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? **4** Or do you presume on the riches of his **kindness** and forbearance and patience, not knowing that **God's kindness** is meant to lead you to repentance?

Galatians 5:22-23

But the **fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness,**23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Ephesians 2:4-7

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of **his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus**.

Ephesians 4:32-5:2

32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**5** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Pastor John Piper's Sermon on Eph. 4:31-5:2

Excerpts accessed from: <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/be-kind-to-one-another>

The Pattern of Christian Kindness

- I. Two patterns of Christian kindness are given for us in the text. ***First is the forgiveness of God.*** Second is the love of Christ.

The first we see in verse 32: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." ***So when kindness calls for forgiveness, the pattern is the forgiveness of God in Christ.***

The second pattern is seen in 5:2, "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us." So ***when love expresses itself in kindness, the pattern is the love of Christ giving himself up for us.***

- II. ***The second pattern for our kindness is the love of Christ*** in 5:2, "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us." What does the pattern of Christ's love teach us about our own? Out of all the things we could say let me just mention three.
 1. ***The love of Christ for us is undeserved, and so we shouldn't insist that people earn our love and our kindness either.*** Jesus said in Luke 6:35, "Love your enemies, and do good . . . and you will be sons of the Most High; ***for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish.***" None of us has ever qualified to be loved by Jesus Christ. Freely we have received it; freely we should give it (Matthew 10:8).
 2. ***The love of Christ for us is holy and ours should be holy.*** The aim of the love of Christ is the holiness of his church: "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her . . . and present her to himself in glory . . . that she might be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:25–27). And therefore we should put away all notions of love that are driven by mere sentiment and emotion. ***Love aims at the holiness of a man and a woman, not at their approval or their worldly happiness.*** Christian kindness is not a strategy to avoid conflict. It's patterned on the love of Christ and aims to promote holiness.
 3. ***The love of Christ for us was sacrificial and self-denying, and ours should be too.*** This is basically the same thing we said earlier, namely, that the love of God was costly. But it is good to say it again. Because every one of us knows that ***the hardest thing about Christian kindness is to show it when it hurts...***

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This is a hint that ***the instrument of our kindness is not simply ourselves***. If left to ourselves, we will no more be able to get the bitterness and malice out of our heart than we can lift ourselves by our own bootstraps. It doesn't lie within us.

They must BE TAKEN from us. "***Let all bitterness . . . BE taken away from you.***" Someone else is at work here besides us. It is the same thing we saw in verse 23: "BE renewed in the spirit of your mind." (Another passive verb!) There must be a renewing power or person. There must be a power that takes bitterness and malice from my heart and makes me tenderhearted and kind.

The Holy Spirit and Faith

And we know what that power is (who that person is!) because Galatians 5:22 says very plainly, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness . . ." ***If the Spirit of God does not come into our lives to do a supernatural work, we may be able to spruce up the outward manners of kindness, but the poison within will remain. Of that Paul says, "Let it BE taken away." This is a cry for the work of the Spirit to conquer the old self and clothe us with the new.***

But the question is not fully answered. We must still ask, What is the instrument with which I appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit? And the answer is faith. The Spirit flows in the channels of faith. Paul cries out in Galatians 3:2-3, "Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh?"

And our answer should be a resounding, NO! ***I am not trying to overcome my bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander and malice in the power of the flesh! I am looking to the Holy Spirit to bear his fruit in my life. How am I looking? What am I doing? I am doing what I did to receive him in the first place: I am believing. I am trusting.***