

Week of July 5, 2009

Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D.

Monday

Luke 6:35 “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.

God expects you to be kind even to those who are undeserving of kindness. Why? Because He is kind. He desires you to show kindness to strangers, to those who are unkind to you, to those you work with, and to those with whom you interact. This is an impossible dilemma if you try to show this type of kindness through your own strength. Like the fruits of love, joy, peace, and patience, this kindness is a fruit of your relationship with Jesus. Indeed, it is His kindness displayed through you. Do others — all others — find/see/experience Jesus’ kindness in you?

Tuesday

1Cor. 15:33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

It should be of no surprise that the company you keep affects the fruit you yield. The word translated ‘good’ here is actually the word usually translated ‘kind’. So our kindness is affected negatively by rubbing too closely with others who consistently exhibit unkindness in word or deed. By allowing words of unkindness to infiltrate our lives, by listening to gossip, or negative criticism we welcome rot into our orchard. When the influence in our lives is Jesus, then kindness is born. When the influences are critical, negative, mean spirited people, our spiritual fruit is corrupted. Who/what is influencing your fruit?

Wednesday

1Pet. 2:1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

The test and motivation of a Spirit-filled walk are presented here. We desire kindness, Peter writes, because God had been kind to us. He has granted us grace and shown us favor not because we deserve it, but because He is kind. This is motive. What’s the test? If there is malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy or slander flowing from your life, you are not walking a Spirit-filled walk. What do you do then? Put them away, cease and desist. Instead, get into the word, let it saturate you. Grow in your relationship with Jesus and move away from the carnal walk of the flesh.

Thursday

Matt. 11:30 “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Oddly, the word translated in this passage as ‘easy’ is the word most often translated ‘kind’. Its meaning then is that the yoke of God — living according to His principles and under His authority — is not a burden or hardship, but is in fact part of the kindness of God’s grace. In His yoke we are directed in the path of His will. In His yoke we are assured of accomplishing eternal priorities, lasting works of the Kingdom. In His yoke we have purpose, we are useful to Him, and provided for by Him. Oh, how great the kindness of God’s yoke that keeps us in the way of grace. If one were to break the yoke of grace, he would prove himself dumb as an ox.

Friday

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness...

How are you doing so far? What do the first four fruits reveal in your life? Where are the weak spots of your connection to Jesus and His word? Remember the absence or weakness of a fruit is not something you can fix by trying to be more loving, joyful, peaceful, or kind; rather it is a revelation of a need for a closer walk with Jesus in that particular area of your life. The fruit directly correlates to your connection to the Root (Jesus).