

# FRUIT

of the *Spirit*

Sunday, September 13, 2020 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

## PART 5 | **KINDNESS**

Ephesians 4:31-5:2

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

– **Galatians 5:22-23**

As I **PUT AWAY** my old ways

(v. 31)

**you're already new** 2 Corinthians 5:17

**you're being made new** 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:6; Titus 3:5

**ditch the old ways** Colossians 3:8-10; Ephesians 4:24

# **KINDNESS grows**

(v. 32)

**kind and tenderhearted** Colossians 3:12-13; Matthew 7:12

**forgiveness** Colossians 3:13

# and I become more **LIKE JESUS.**

(v. 5:1-2)

**imitate Jesus** Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:48; Ephesians 2:7

**bear fruit — *inward reality, outward expression*** Matthew 3:8-10

**What is this?** – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups. The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a parallel passage of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

**Welcome to Life Groups!** We're studying the fruit that the Holy Spirit grows in our lives as we stay close to Jesus.

## Getting Started

**Getting to Know You:** Part of our goal together is getting to know one another. *You are granted three wishes but none of them can directly benefit you. What would those wishes be?*

Review your message notes and this week's Scripture. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

## God's Kindness to Us

\* Many of this week's questions borrowed from Phyllis J. LePeau et al., *Fruit of the Spirit: 48 Bible Studies for Individuals or Groups* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013).

*There are a lot of parallels between being children in a physical sense and being a child of God. One of the most blatant similarities is gratefulness—or the lack thereof. Children are often self-centered and at times are hardly aware of the kindness that is extended to them by their parents.*

*As God's children, our awareness and appreciation of his kindness should be as natural as breathing fresh air. Yet that is not always the case. We need eyes that see and hearts that believe that God's kindness extends to us. As you look closely at God's kindness in **Psalm 103**, ask him to open your eyes to all that is there.*

1. What do you think it would be like never to have experienced kindness?
2. **Read Psalm 103.** According to **verses 2-5**, what kind and loving things has God done for us?
3. In this first paragraph (**v. 2-5**), how does God's loving-kindness meet our physical, emotional, and spiritual needs?
4. Which of the Lord's "benefits" have you experienced recently? Explain.
5. As you read the psalmist's description of God in **verses 6-14**, what kind of portrait emerges?
6. How are God's kindness and love demonstrated in his treatment of the oppressed (**v. 6-7**)?
7. How is God's loving-kindness revealed in the way he treats those who sin (**v. 8-12**)?
8. In what ways do you struggle with accepting God's forgiveness? How can these verses help you to live in the freedom of his forgiveness?
9. How does God respond to our frailty and mortality (**v. 13-19**)?
10. How do his compassion and love reach even beyond the grave for those who fear him?
11. Reflect again on the ways God's loving-kindness has been shown to you according to this Psalm. In what specific ways could you imitate his kindness in your relationships with others?

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# Pray

Praise to God is an appropriate way to open and close this psalm. Using **verses 1–2 and 20–22** as your model, pray to God, praising him for his kindness, love, and compassion. In your group, consider opening it up for anyone to pray one sentence prayers aloud. As you close, ask the Holy Spirit to produce in you the fruit of kindness.

## Try it This Week:

Often in our prayer life, praise is short-lived as we move quickly to requests for both ourselves and others. **Using Psalm 104 as a model**, take several days to pray a prayer of praise to God. (You might want to write this prayer out.) First praise him for every detail that you see in this psalm about who God is. Then praise him for his kind works. Finally, praise him for how you have been impacted by who he is and what he has done.



## SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE

Practice meditating on **Galatians 5:22-23**. Read it 8 or 9 times. First read it quickly, then read it slowly focusing several seconds on each main word. Then begin to memorize these two verses. Make it your goal to be able to know these two verses by heart by the end of September!

## Word Find for Ephesians 4:29-5:2 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

<sup>29</sup> Let no **corrupting** talk **come** out of your **mouths**, but **only such** as is **good** for **building** up, as **fits** the **occasion**, that it may **give grace** to those who **hear**.<sup>30</sup> And do not **grieve** the **Holy Spirit** of God, by whom you were **sealed** for the day of **redemption**.<sup>31</sup> Let all **bitterness** and wrath and **anger** and **clamor** and **slander** be put **away** from you, along with all **malice**.<sup>32</sup> Be kind to one **another**, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one **another**, as God in **Christ forgave** you.

<sup>5:1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.<sup>2</sup> And walk in **love**, as **Christ loved** us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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O	A	M	D	A	N	G	E	R	W	C	A
V	M	I	E	N	B	I	L	S	B	C	P
E	O	M	M	O	I	V	A	P	U	A	S
C	R	A	P	T	T	E	W	I	I	S	F
C	F	L	T	H	T	M	A	R	L	I	O
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