

WELCOME!

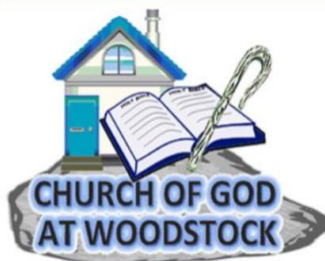
SABBATH GREETINGS FROM GOD THE FATHER AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



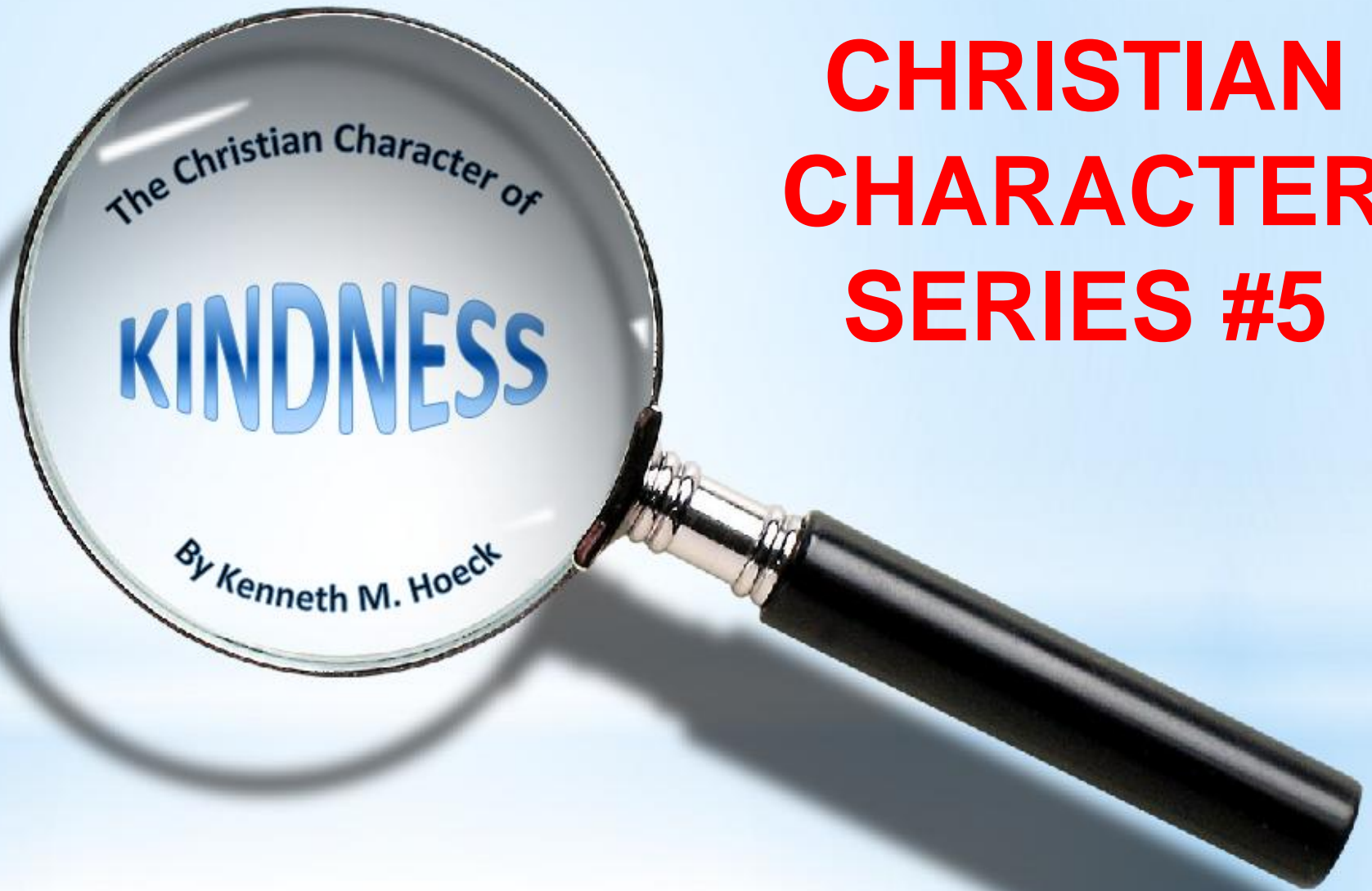
**TRUTH ON THE
WEB MINISTRIES**

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EPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE
SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD
A CHURCH OF GOD IN WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS



CHRISTIAN CHARACTER SERIES #5



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"Character is what you are in the dark." D.L. Moody

Proverbs 17:3 The fining pot *is* for silver, and the furnace for gold: **but the LORD trieth the hearts.**

Chronicles 29:17a-- **"I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness."**



Col 3:12 - Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

“Kindness”= 5544 chrestotes (khray-stot'-ace); from 5543; usefulness, i.e. moral excellence (in character or demeanor):

KJV-- gentleness, good (-ness), kindness.

KINDNESS

1 Corinthians 13:3-7 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. **Charity suffereth long, and is kind**; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

KINDNESS

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, **gentleness** (**chrestotes**), goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

“KIND “ in 1 COR 13:4 is Strong's Greek Dictionary 5541. χρηστεύομαι **chresteuomai** (chrēsteúomai) *khraste-yoo'-om-ahee* middle voice from G5543; **to show oneself useful, i.e. act benevolently:—be kind. verb**

Kindness

“Kindness is a readiness to do good, to help, to relieve burdens, to be useful, to serve, to be tender, and to be sympathetic to others. It has been said, “**Kindness is love in work clothes.**””

Reference: Leading With Love, Lewis and Roth, 2006, p. 44,
Used by Permission. Author: Alexander Strauch

Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

God has been Kind to Us

Titus 3:3-5 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another. But after that **the kindness** and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

God has been Kind to Us

Titus 3:6-8 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. *This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

God has been Kind to Us

Ephesians 1:3-5 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

God has been Kind to Us

Job 7:17-18 What *is* man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him? And *that* thou shouldest visit him every morning, *and* try him every moment?

Psalms 8:4-6 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all *things* under his feet:

Psalms 144:3 LORD, what *is* man, that thou takest knowledge of him! *or* the son of man, that thou makest account of him!

God has been Kind to Us

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Being Kind is an Act of Faith

Luke 10:33-37 (KJV) But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*, And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Being Kind is an Act of Faith

Matthew 5:43-48 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, **Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;** That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so? **Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**

Being Kind is an Act of Faith

Hebrews 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

.... HOW? She showed them kindness!

Joshua 2:12-14 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you **kindness**, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: And *that* ye will **save** alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal **kindly** and truly with thee.

Being Kind is an Act of Faith

2 Peter 1:7-8 And to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to **brotherly kindness** charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:10 Be **kindly affectioned** one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Ephesians 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And **be ye kind one to another**, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

The Christian Character of Kindness

Romans 2:1-4 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

The Christian Character of Kindness

1 John 3:16-19 Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

The Christian Character of Kindness

FAILED HEART TRANSPLANT

“There was a man who had a heart transplant. But the operation was a total failure. For the man was a mean man and the donated heart was a kind heart. His body simply rejected it.” ~ *Author Helen Brenneman*



SUCCESSFUL HEART TRANSPLANT

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause (move) you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.”

~ *The Lord GOD in Ezekiel 36:26-27*

The Christian Character of Kindness

ASK YOURSELF: What influences ME to be cruel or rude?

1. What Influences a Christian to Be Cruel or Rude?

- a. Pride and Self-Centeredness** – When a person is overly focused on themselves, they may disregard the feelings of others (Proverbs 16:18).
- b. Unforgiveness and Bitterness** – Holding onto past hurts can make someone harsh in their words and actions (Ephesians 4:31-32).
- c. Stress and Anxiety** – Difficult circumstances can cause people to react harshly rather than responding with grace (Philippians 4:6-7).
- d. Lack of Spiritual Maturity** – If a Christian is not growing in the fruit of the Spirit, they may struggle with patience and kindness (Galatians 5:22-23).
- e. Negative Influences** – Spending time around rude or unkind people can shape one's own behavior (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- f. Unchecked Anger** – If anger is not dealt with properly, it can lead to cruel speech and actions (James 1:19-20).
- g. Spiritual Emptiness** – When someone is distant from God, they may act in the flesh rather than walking in the Spirit (Romans 8:5-6).

The Christian Character of Kindness

2. How Does Rudeness Counteract Kindness?

a. Rudeness Creates Division, While Kindness Builds Unity

– Harsh words and actions push people away, but kindness fosters love and reconciliation (Colossians 3:14).

b. Rudeness Wounds, While Kindness Heals – A rude remark can break a person's spirit, but a kind word can bring encouragement and life (Proverbs 15:4).

c. Rudeness Pushes Others from Christ, While Kindness Draws Them In – A harsh Christian can turn others away from the faith, while kindness reflects Christ's love (John 13:35).

d. Rudeness Is Selfish, While Kindness Is Selfless – Rudeness seeks its own way, but kindness considers others first (Philippians 2:3-4).

ASK YOURSELF: In what situation did I fail to have kindness when I should have?

The Christian Character of Kindness

3. What Issues in a Christian's Life Would Improve with More Kindness?

- a. Marriages and Family Relationships** – Kindness can heal wounds, restore communication, and strengthen bonds (Ephesians 4:2).
- b. Workplace Conflicts** – Responding with kindness instead of frustration fosters peace and cooperation (Colossians 3:23-24).
- c. Church Fellowship** – A kind and patient spirit can prevent divisions and promote love within the Body of Christ (Romans 12:10).
- d. Evangelism and Witnessing** – Demonstrating kindness makes the Gospel more attractive and credible to unbelievers (Titus 3:2-5).
- e. Mental and Emotional Well-being** – Practicing kindness reduces stress and fosters a joyful, content heart (Proverbs 17:22).
- f. Spiritual Growth** – As kindness becomes a habit, a Christian grows more into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

**ASK YOURSELF: What Issues in MY Life
Would Improve with More Kindness?**

The Christian Character of Kindness

How Does a Christian Person Exhibit Kindness in Their Daily Life?

- a. Speaking with Grace** – Using words that uplift and encourage rather than tear down (Ephesians 4:29).
- b. Showing Compassion** – Helping those in need, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually (Matthew 25:35-40).
- c. Practicing Forgiveness** – Choosing to let go of resentment and offering grace, just as God forgave us (Colossians 3:13).
- d. Being Patient** – Responding gently even when others are difficult (Proverbs 15:1).
- e. Serving Others** – Actively looking for ways to help, expecting nothing in return (Galatians 5:13).
- f. Loving Enemies** – Showing kindness even to those who mistreat us (Luke 6:35).

ASK YOURSELF: How may I exhibit Kindness in MY Daily Life?

The Christian Character of Kindness

What Blocks the Practice of Kindness in a Christian Person's Life?

- a. Pride and Selfishness** – Focusing too much on self rather than on others (Philippians 2:3-4).
- b. Bitterness and Unforgiveness** – Holding onto past hurts blocks a heart of kindness (Hebrews 12:15).
- c. Busyness and Distraction** – Rushing through life without taking time to notice or care for others (Luke 10:30-37).
- d. Fear and Anxiety** – Worrying about personal problems can make us less attentive to others' needs (Matthew 6:31-34).
- e. Negative Influences** – Spending time around unkind or harsh people can affect our own attitudes (1 Corinthians 15:33).

The Christian Character of Kindness

How Can a Christian Make Kindness Function Better, Stronger, and Faster, Even in Times of Uncertainty and Stress?

Rely on the Holy Spirit – Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), so praying for His help strengthens our ability to be kind.

Stay Rooted in God's Word – Regularly reading Scripture renews our minds and reminds us to walk in love (Romans 12:2).

Practice Gratitude – A thankful heart naturally overflows with kindness (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Pause Before Reacting – In stressful situations, taking a deep breath and choosing to respond with love instead of reacting emotionally (James 1:19-20).

Seek God's Strength Daily – Acknowledge that we cannot be kind in our own strength, but through Christ (Philippians 4:13).

The Christian Character of Kindness

What Can a Christian Do to Develop More of an Attitude of Kindness ?

A. 1. Seek God's Help in Prayer

- a. Ask God to transform your heart and fill it with His love and compassion and kindness (Ezekiel 36:26).
- b. Pray for opportunities to show kindness to others (Colossians 4:6).
- c. Ask God to soften your heart and make you more like Christ (Ezekiel 36:26).

B. 2. Study and Meditate on Scripture

- a. Read and reflect on passages that teach about kindness, such as **Ephesians 4:32, Proverbs 11:17, and Galatians 5:22-23.**
- b. Memorize verses that encourage gentle and loving interactions (Colossians 3:12).

The Christian Character of Kindness

What Can a Christian Do to Develop More of an Attitude of Kindness ?

C. 3. Follow the Example of Jesus

- a. Study how Jesus showed kindness, especially to the outcasts, sinners, and those in need (Luke 6:35-36).
- b. Ask, “**How would Jesus respond in this situation?**” and act accordingly.

D. 4. Practice Small Acts of Kindness Daily

- a. Hold the door open for someone, offer a kind word, or send an encouraging message (Proverbs 16:24).
- b. Look for ways to be a blessing to others, expecting nothing in return (Acts 20:35).

The Christian Character of Kindness

What Can a Christian Do to Develop More of an Attitude of Kindness ?

E. 5. Develop a Heart of Gratitude

- a. A thankful heart produces kindness because it focuses on the blessings of God rather than frustrations (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- b. Keep a gratitude journal to remind yourself of God's goodness.

F. 6. Be Slow to Anger and Quick to Forgive

- a. Recognize that rudeness often stems from unresolved anger or bitterness (James 1:19-20).
- b. Choose to forgive as Christ forgave you (Colossians 3:13).

The Christian Character of Kindness

What Can a Christian Do to Develop More of an Attitude of Kindness ?

G. 7. Surround Yourself with Kind People

- a. Fellowship with believers who encourage kindness and humility (Proverbs 27:17).
- b. Learn from those who consistently demonstrate the love of Christ in their actions.

H. 8. Serve Others with a Willing Heart

- a. Volunteering and helping those in need naturally nurtures kindness (Galatians 5:13).
- b. Look for ways to serve at church, in the community, or within your own family. – Actively seek ways to bless others (Acts 20:35).

The Christian Character of Kindness

What Can a Christian Do to Develop More of an Attitude of Kindness ?

I. 9. Let the Holy Spirit Work in You

- a. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit, so walking in the Spirit helps cultivate it (Galatians 5:22-23).
- b. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict and guide you in areas where kindness is lacking.

J. 10. Be Patient with Yourself and Others

- a. Developing kindness takes time, so don't be discouraged by setbacks (Philippians 1:6).
- b. Extend grace to others, even when they are difficult to love (Luke 6:31).

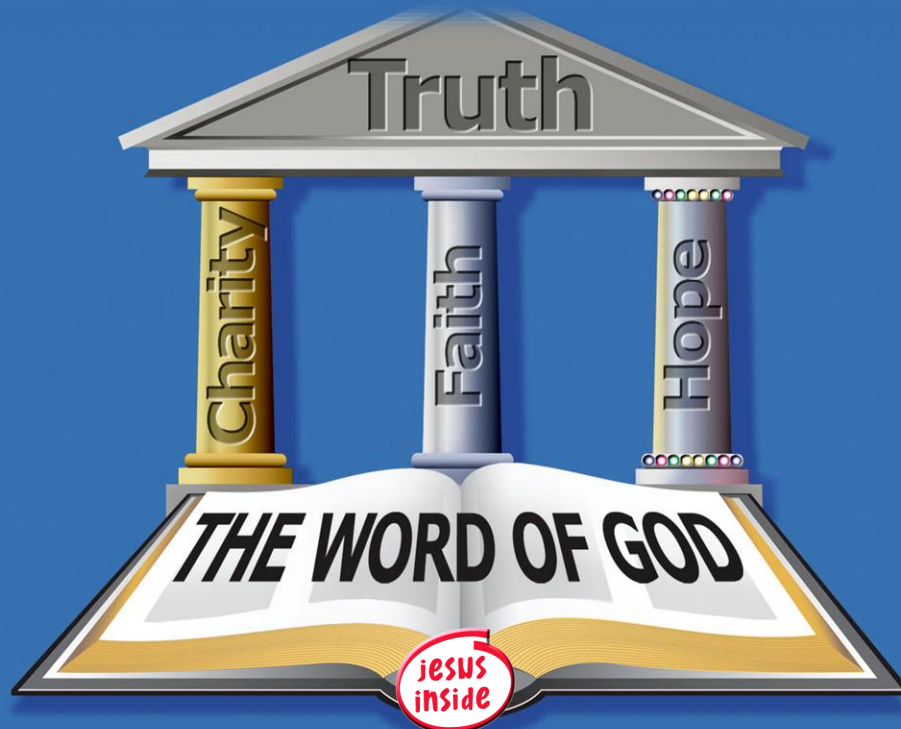
The Christian Character of Kindness

Colossians 3:12-14 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*. And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

The Christian Character of Kindness

*“**Kindness** is a sincere desire for the happiness of others; goodness is the activity calculated to advance that happiness. **Kindness** is the inner disposition, created by the Holy Spirit, that causes us to be sensitive to the needs of others, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual. Goodness is **kindness** in action – words and deeds. Because of this close relationship, we often use the two words interchangeably.*

[Jerry Bridges , The Practice of Godliness, NavPress, 1996, p. 189.]



May your character be
not a writing upon the
sand, but an inscription
upon the Rock.

–C.H. Spurgeon



Have a great REST of the SABBATH!