

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Fruit of the Holy Spirit Series

These questions are for the **July 27, 2025** message, “**Kindness.**” Please read the sermon passage (Ephesians 4:25-32) together to set the context for our study.

Passage Outline

1. What is kindness? (Eph 4:32)

- The root of kindness was often used as a financial term.
 - A. Kindness: “holy compassion which requires both giving (action) and wisdom (restraint).”
 - B. As we mature, note that kindness is more of an action, less of a reaction.
- We can give from our abundance. This can include money.
 - A. Giving from our standing (review Eph 1: our glorious standing in heaven).
 - B. Giving from our maturity (review Eph 2: that you were far away but are now near).

2. Where does it come from? (Eph 4:32; Luke 6:35-36)

- Kindness comes from God. Note this “common kindness.”
- God gives general kindness (sunshine, life and rain) to the “just and the unjust.”

3. What is the purpose of kindness? (Eph 4:32, Rom 2:4)

- The purpose of “common kindness” is to invite all people to God’s “particular kindness.”
- God’s love is shown to us in that he sent his Son Jesus Christ as a substitute.
- Jesus paid for the sins of those who receive him. The purpose of kindness is repentance.

4. How does kindness grow in my life? (Eph 4:32, Titus 3:4-8)

- As individuals and the church steps into compassionate actions, given in the name of Jesus to the just and unjust, the world witnesses the change of character which glorifies God.
- This change comes by the Holy Spirit as we abide in Christ through highs and lows.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Kindness is “holy compassion which requires both giving and wisdom.” As you abide in Christ’s kindness to you, how can you display that kindness in actions? How can you grow in wisdom (note: we said that Christian kindness is “an action,” and not merely “a reaction”)?
2. Based on #2, above: Read Eph 4:32 and reflect upon God’s kindness to us in the forgiveness of our sins. Talk about this display of kindness: “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
3. Based on #3, above: Kindness is prescribed for those who love God: we want to be like him. In fact, if we love him, we must become like him. But it also has a purpose, and that purpose is repentance. Talk about how the ongoing experience of “holiness + patience”; of “unwavering expectation + empowering help” has produced repentance in your soul. Consider God’s love for you in Jesus!
4. Based on #4, above: The Holy Spirit makes us more like Jesus as we abide, and not merely as we try harder. The branches (you and me) must remain connected to the vine (Jesus). When we are unkind (or neglect being kind), we reflect again on his kindness, we experience his forgiveness and he changes us. What hard situations and failures have you endured that God has used to make you more like Jesus as you “abide”? In what way are you kinder today because of God’s faithfulness?