

Kindness in the New Testament

1. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit rather than a gift.

Galatians 5:22-But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness [χρηστότης], goodness, faithfulness,

2. God Himself is the Exemplar.

a. Titus 3:4-5-But when the kindness [χρηστότης] of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

b. Ephesians 2:7-so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness [χρηστότητι] toward us in Christ Jesus.

c. Romans 2:4-Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience [χρηστότητος αὐτοῦ καὶ τῆς ἀνοχῆς καὶ τῆς μακροθυμίας] not knowing that the kindness [χρηστόν] of God leads you to repentance?

d. Romans 11:22-Behold then the kindness [χρηστότητα] and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness [χρηστότητα], if you continue in His kindness [χρηστότητι]; otherwise you also will be cut off.

3. Believers are exhorted to be kind and to display kindness.

a. Colossians 3:12-So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness [χρηστότητα], humility, gentleness and patience;

b. 2 Corinthians 6:4-6-in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness [χρηστότητι], in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love.

c. 1 Peter 2:2-3-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 [χρηστός] of the Lord.

d. 2 Peter 1:5-7-Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness [φιλαδελφίαν], and in *your* brotherly kindness [φιλαδελφία], love [ἀγάπην].

e. Acts 9:36-Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated *in Greek* is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness [ἀγαθῶν] and charity [ἐλεημοσυνῶν] which she continually did.

4. Unbelievers may or may not display a form of kindness.

a. Acts 28:2-The natives showed us extraordinary kindness [φιλανθρωπίαν]; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all.

b. Romans 3:12-All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good [οὐκ ἔστιν ὁ ποιῶν χρηστότητα], There is not even one."