

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT – KINDNESS

NUMBER 174

AUGUST 2022

The Apostle Paul addresses a definition of kindness that can be found in the following scripture in Philippians. Kindness refers to treating everyone that you meet with love and respect; the dictionary says “the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate.” It involves putting others’ needs above your own.

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” Philippians 2:3-4

Continued on page 2

LAWS GIVEN AND THE LAW OF LOVE

All law leads to Jesus Christ, Immanuel, who accomplished the impossible of compromised man, held prisoner by death, the instrument of Satan to separate man from God.

When God chose Moses to lead the rescue of His people from slavery in Egypt, He led them into the desert, teaching and training them for 40 years, giving them first Ten Commandments, followed by others that were intended to be for their own good. However; the first generation frequently rebelled against the law of Moses.

Continued on page 4

BE THANKFUL FOR OUR HOLY GOD

“How great is God—beyond our understanding! The number of his years is past finding out.” (Job 36:26 NIV) **Just for a moment** let’s focus on thanking God for who He is and all He does. Taking thoughts from the **Psalms**, praise



Him for his holiness, awesome power and eternal presence.

Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

Fruit of the spirit - Kindness	1
Laws Given and Law of Love - Grubbs	1
Be Thankful for Our Holy God - Brown	1
Can a Congregation Grow Today	5
Impossible for Evolution	7
Calendar of events	14

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - KINDNESS P. 2

Kindness acted out would be following the "golden rule," that is to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Kindness represents a balance between taking care of yourself and your family and helping or serving others. Literally, if you used all your resources to help others to the detriment of yourself and your family, you would be being kind to others, but unkind to your family.

Kindness was originated by God. The ultimate act of love and kindness was shown by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross at Calvary. Jesus paid for our sins. And by offering the free gift of salvation to all who would accept His gift of kindness, we have the assurance of eternal life together with Him in Heaven.

Have you ever heard the expression "Kill them with kindness?" The idea is that even though someone may not be kind to you, if you continue to be kind to them, they will eventually be touched by your kindness, see the benefit, and want to be kind like you are. This opens the door for you to share Jesus' love with them. Unless you are kind to others, you will be perceived as unkind, unforgiving, and bitter. That behavior appeals to no one; people are drawn to kindness, so you must do your best to draw others to you, so you in turn can draw them to the Savior.

Kindness is a warm and friendly disposition toward another. A kind person is polite and well mannered, respectful and considerate, pleasant and agreeable, cheerful and upbeat, caring and helpful, positive and complimentary.

Ephesians 4:32 is a verse that Christians learn early in their study of the Bible: "Be kind and

compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Kindness critical to building relationships; even toddlers playing with blocks are told to "be kind" as they are taught to share their toys. As children get older, the concept of kindness expands to include being kind even to those who are not kind to them.

The kindness shown by God was given in spite of the fact that there were people-often His own chosen people-who rejected and hated Him, long ago and still today. But He continues to show that love and kindness and that he expects from us to mimic to the world around us. It's important that, as witnesses for Him, we show kindness every day and in every way. Some may not appreciate it as much as others, but we are not to be kind because someone deserves it. We are kind to serve others, to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Kindness is goodness in action, sweetness of disposition, gentleness in dealing with others. The word describes *the ability to act for the welfare of those taxing your patience.*

Kindness is doing something and not expecting anything in return. Kindness is respect and helping others without waiting for someone to help one back. We must be kind, no matter what reaction we get from the recipient of our kindness. We should live "in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left".

Continued on page 3

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - KINDNESS P. 3

BE THANKFUL FOR OUR HOLY GOD, P. 2

DEEDS OF THE FLESH: TAKE CARE OF YOU AND YOUR OWN

Antonyms of kindness are cold-heartedness, hard-heartedness, inhumanity, inhumanness, mercilessness, and pitilessness-Satans tools to counter Christian kindness.

Satan would tempt you to ignore the needs of others, to take care of yourself and your family before you consider what others might need. He would reason that you can delay the consideration of others until you have adequately taken care of yourself and your own family. Unfortunately, the term “adequately” is a moving target. As the owner of a business, I learned what the salary was that would make almost anyone happy. It was 10% more than they were making.

If you gave them a 10% raise, they were really happy for a few months until their standard of living increased to the limit of the new higher pay rate. At that time another 10% raise would make them really happy again. The temptation to take care of yourself and your family until you have surplus resources to be kind to others simply does not happen for most people. The decision to live within your means so you have surplus to be kind to others gives way to Satan’s temptation to live at the limit of your resources because there are many things you “deserve”. Turns out there are an unlimited number of things you can feel you “deserve”, so you may never get to the point of helping others.



“Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. (66:3) Your righteousness, God, reaches to the heavens, you who have done great things. Who is like you, God? (71:19) The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. (116:5) As for God, his way is perfect: The Lord’s word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.” (18:30) (47:7) And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for he is a God of justice. (50:6)

Now, thank God for all he does for us! *“Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me. (54:4) Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. (62:8) Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. (100:3) Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” (25:5)* Elizabeth Brown

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana

**God destroyed
Sodom and
Gomorrah for
the very things
we are
celebrating and
teaching in
schools.**

Laws Given and the Law of Love, P. 2

When they appealed to Joshua, successor to Moses for arbitration and reconciliation of offenders, God raised up first Judges, then Kings who were “monitored” by Prophets, who also served as agents of reconciliation during times when God punished rebellion by defeat and imprisonment and occupation by their enemies, which continued into the period of conquest and occupation by Rome.

Finally, God chose to fulfill His plan by sending His Son, Jesus into the world to seek and save **all** the lost, revealing His unending love for all his children who would come to believe in the gospel of Jesus, place their faith trust and hope in Him and live by the Word of God written on their hearts, and nourished by the power of the Holy Spirit, sent to indwell them at their baptism.

By the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit followers of Jesus are empowered to fight the temptations of Satan and repel the attacks of Satan’s co-conspirators who choose evil over good. The righteous are encouraged to witness the power of God’s love and his amazing grace that is extended to every repentant sinner. The redeemed righteous are built up together all over the world to be ambassadors of Christ reaching out in the Name of Jesus to rescue every child of God and become heirs with Jesus to the promises of eternal life in the presence of God in the world to be made NEW according to the Revelation described by the Apostle John.

We must always be mindful of the admonitions of Jesus to those who deliberately reject Jesus. He taught us, died for us and was resurrected from the grave to demonstrate the Truth of

God’s promise. The stubborn, proud, evil deceivers who delight in self-deception, and the fruit of lies that bring misery and death to millions of the innocent already stand condemned by their own words and actions. Evidence of the truth is already being revealed and made clear. The worldly wise will be made simple, and the simple will become wise in the ways of the LORD as they come out of the darkness into the light.

Those who choose to learn how to live in the knowledge of Love for the Lord will be free indeed and shall not be intimidated, tempted or deceived anymore. We are all called to learn about love at the foot of the Cross during our personal sweet hour of prayer.

Larry S. Grubbs, Harrison Ohio

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CHURCH GROWTH SERIES: CAN A CONGREGATION GROW TODAY?

In the February 2022 Christian Chronicle a story related:

1970s & 1980s A major metropolitan Church of Christ congregation peaked at about 2,000 members.

In 1986 the major metropolitan congregation was located 3 miles south of current location. That property was purchased by local independent congregation.

In 2022 with 400-500 on their roll the major metropolitan congregation roll had 300-400 in attendance. They had a 43,000 sq. ft. bldg. constructed in 1986 on 18 acres near downtown. They considered themselves to be a very grace-oriented church. “ We’ve gone through that shift – and feel we’ve gotten healthier and stronger while diminishing in numbers.” They were \$1.9 million in debt.

Between 1986-2022 the local independent church grew enough that it is now purchasing the 43,000 sq. ft. x 18 acre facility from the major metropolitan Church of Christ with enough to pay off the debt and have some surplus cash.

A major metropolitan congregation elder echoed that desire, “We’re seeing it not as a failure – there’s a sense that this is a way to live into discipleship and be more effective disciples of Jesus, with resources that allow us to make a significant impact on the kingdom.” (Note: the resources mentioned are cash from the sale)

Contrarian view: In an area in which the fields were white unto harvest such that between

IN THE SAME AREA AT THE SAME TIME A CHURCH OF CHRIST DECLINED FROM 2000 TO 400 WHILE AN INDEPENDENT CONGREGATION GREW FROM 400 TO 2000!

1986 and 2022 a non-denominational group grew from needing a 400 member facility to a 2000 member facility while the Church of Christ in the same area declined from a 2000 member group to being a 400 member group. The Church of Christ judged themselves to be successful.

In looking at the 100 fastest growing congrega-

89% OF THE FASTEST GROWING CONGREGATIONS ARE INDEPENDENTS!

tions in the USA, 89 were independent community congregations, 7 were Baptists, 3 were Christian, and 1 was Presbyterian. To say it another way, 89% were independent community congregations.

Continued on page 6

CHURCH GROWTH SERIES: CAN A CONGREGATION GROW TODAY? P. 2

As independent community congregations are even more independent than Churches of Christ, real data on them is even harder to come by than on Churches of Christ. What I have seen and heard is:

1. They are closer to a Church of Christ than a Presbyterian church.
2. They announce specific expectations of their members, see THE BIG 10 from the Church of the Rock.
3. They attract young people with loud instrumental music.
4. They tend not to be dogmatic on a lot of topics.
5. They dispense with our style bureaucracy in favor of a single pastor-leader with a clear vision.

Some starter questions:

1. Can we have expectations of our members and clearly state them?
2. Can we improve the quality and attractiveness of our worship services short of instrumental music?
3. Can we learn something from independents churches?
4. Do the scriptures allow us some organizational flexibility?
5. Can we find scriptural alternatives to our customary organizational style which do not tend to disenfranchise our members?
6. Can we objectively state what we must do to actually accomplish our part of the Great Commission? [More to come.](#)

OC Church Growth Institute

Our goal is to help return the Churches of Christ to a 5% scriptural growth rate!

<https://occg.institute>

WINGS OF EAGLES



3 PERSONAL EVANGELISM VIDEOS

Short cell phone answers to Biblical questions!

118 TOPICAL / BIBLE CLASS LESSONS

34 CHURCH GROWTH PAPERS

166 ISSUES OF CHRISTIAN ARRAY E-MAGAZINE

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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #130—MONKEY FACED FLOWERS

Dracula simia, also called monkey orchid or the monkey-like Dracula, is an epiphytic orchid originally described in the genus Masdevallia, but later moved to the genus Dracula. The arrangement of column, petals and lip strongly resembles a monkey's face. The plant blooms at any season with several flowers on the inflorescence that open successively. Flowers are fragrant with the scent of a ripe orange.

The photograph shows some of these Orchids. You can buy seeds from Amazon.com with the brand being VictoryVentor. They literally have monkey faces on them.

To put a monkey face on a flower is a definite design, and the repeatability of it is definitely proof of complex DNA programming. Can you imagine just how much intentional DNA programming it would take to make a monkey face on a flower.

No insect would come up to it and decide to pollinate it because it looks like a monkey, if anything it would scare an insect off. That is not a "survival of the fittest" characteristic. It would tend to make them extinct.

There is no survival of the fittest reason to evolve these flowers, and to produce them requires a lot of computer-like DNA. That leaves only one answer: an Intelligent Designer created them.

What reason would an Intelligent Designer have to design and program flowers like these? There is no indication that animals appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of these flowers. The only conceivable reason for this beauty is so that humans would see them and know that there is a God.

These flowers do not just suggest that there is

an Intelligent Designer, God; they scream it. Humans would have to be naïve to look at such wonders and think, "aren't we lucky these accidents happen?" They will take that naivete to judgment day and face the Designer.

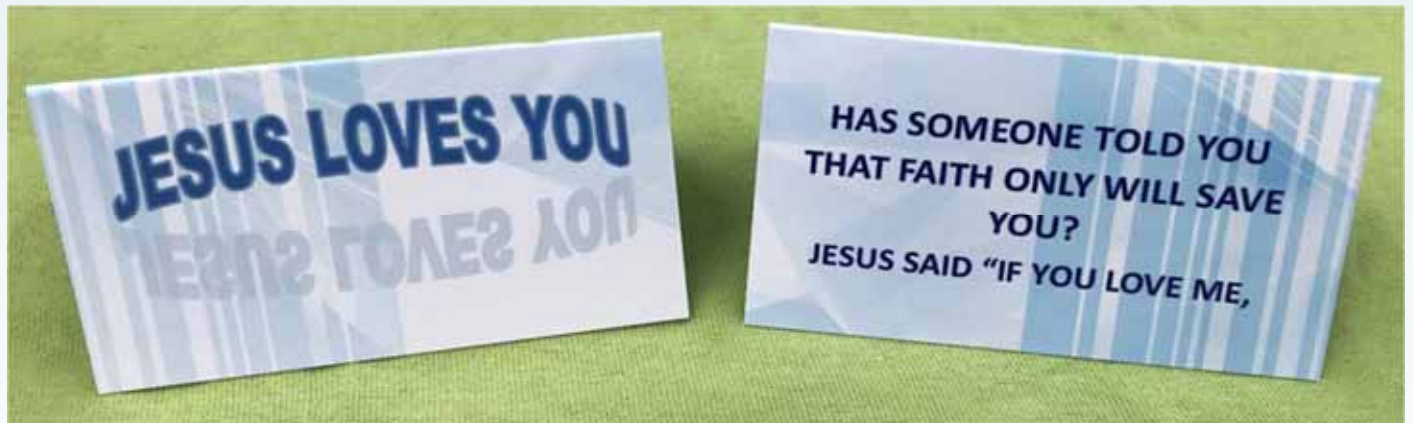
Benton F. Baugh



If you are still unconvinced, consider the White Egret Orchid.

Information from Wikipedia

PERSONAL EVANGELISM TENT CARDS



Tent cards are business card size and are folded into a small tent. You can hand them to someone or when you go to lunch, you can simply leave it on the table. The purpose is to try to start a discussion, or at least to give an invitation.

They can provide a message like these samples or can say anything you like.

Imagine you equip your members with 1000 of these and consider the impact it can have on your congregation.

You can get products like these at your local printer or online by searching for tent cards.

If you like contact us at info@occg.institute and we will assist you.



OUTSIDE OF CARD



INSIDE OF CARD

PERSONAL EVANGELISM TRI-FOLDS

Personalized personal evangelism tri-folds are a tool which has proven to be an effective way to begin conversations similarly to the Tent Cards discussed last month.

These cards not only tell the basics about Churches of Christ, but also can give location details and service times about your specific congregation. They can be edited to give whatever information you think to be beneficial for you're area and circumstance.

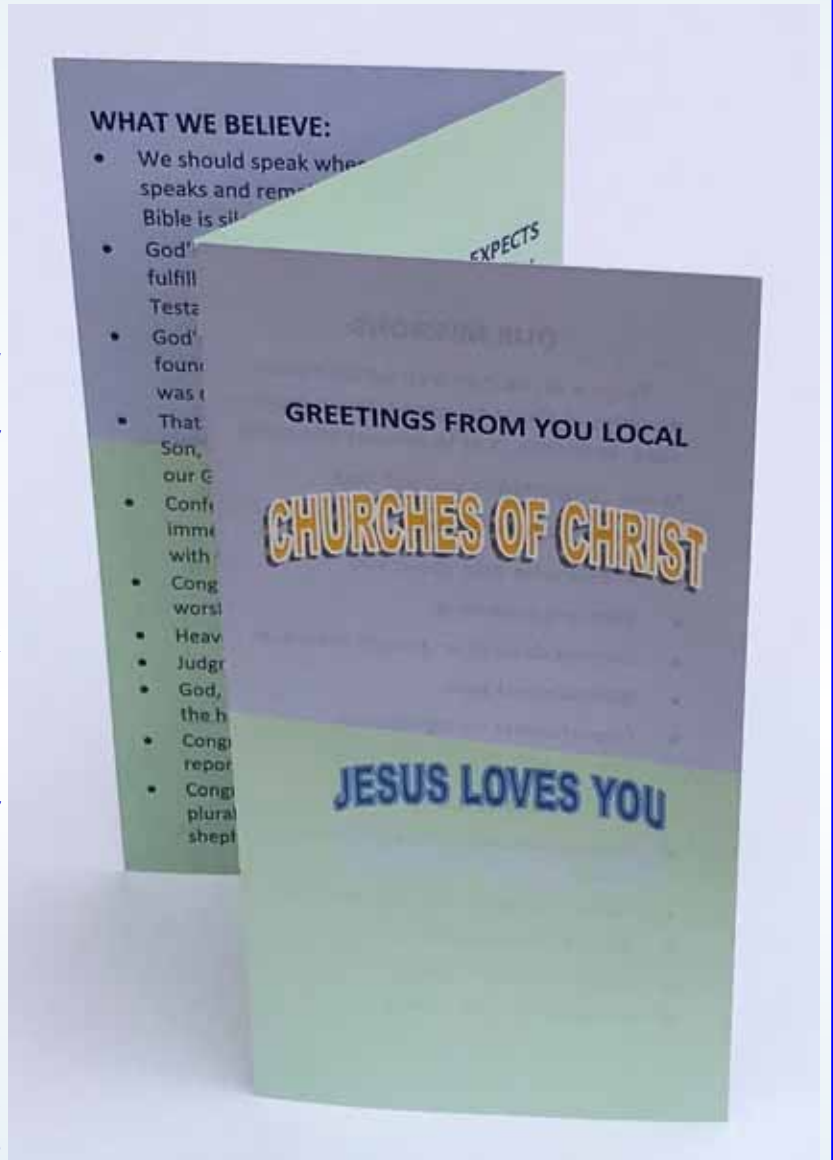
Cards similar to this can be obtained from a number of printers, with Uprint.com being the one we have used. In the example shown we used a 5.5" x 8.5" Z-Fold printed on the outside and inside in full color. It is found under brochures.

The following will give the base costs for the tri-folds, with shipping being extra.

100	\$37.19	\$0.38 ea.
250	\$106.31	\$0.43 ea.
1000	\$238.49	\$0.24 ea.
10000	\$1,074.46	\$0.11 ea.

You can go online and design any style tri-fold or other brochure you prefer. As an alternative, if you like the wording and style on the example shown, we will have them printed for you.

The following page shows the wording for Luther Community Church of Christ. If you want us to coordinate them for you, print the next page, mark it up as you like, and email it to bbaugh@occg.institute. Our part of the process will be a free service. You will pay only for Uprint's printing costs.



If you deal with them directly, they will send a free sample of your printing. As we have dealt with them before, they will not send us a free sample for you. We will send you a free sample which looks like the following page before anything is printed.

Hopefully this will be a method which will be of assistance to some congregations. If you have another idea we can publish in a future issue,

PERSONAL EVANGELISM TRI-FOLDS - THE GOLDEN RULE

This tract is a study in how to say enough to pique someone's interest without offending them. We sometimes try to hard at not offending people that we water our messages down to platitudes. This tract promotes actually saying something and the Wednesday Service Night concept. The Wednesday Service Night concept is generally that most members do not need to sit in class #3001 but rather that it is time to start being of service.

The Golden Rule looks at it from the opposite side from how we normally look at it.

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Come find your role with us.



THE
GOLDEN
RULE

Jesus said in his golden rule: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 7:12

This means that if you come to a clarity about a truth impacting your salvation in Heaven with Jesus, I would hope you to tell me about it.

I have come to such a clarity about our salvation in Heaven with Jesus, and I understand I should tell you about it.



I believe God is the creator and sustainer of the universe.

I believe God's word for us is communicated to us in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

I believe only the New Testament is applicable to us today as the Old Testament is completed (Gal. 3:23-25)



I believe that we are not authorized to add to or take away from what the New Testament says (Rev.22:18-19)

In other words, all revelation from God to us was given in the first century.

I understand that if the Bible teaches something and you teach something else, you are in rebellion to God's word.

Whereas we would not question anyone's sincerity:

For the past 1500 years the Catholic church has been adding to and taking away from the teachings of the Bible by their rulings.



Protestant denominations are distinguished by the Catholic doctrines they **protested** and the Catholic doctrines they follow.

Most **independent community churches** at the least abandon the congregation organization as given in Jesus' New Testament. What they actually teach otherwise is sometimes hard to determine.

The **Churches of Christ** make every effort to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent.

TITLW

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13. *Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.*

14. *If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.*

Source unknown.

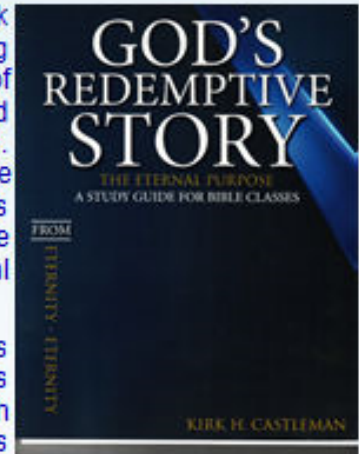
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A 13 lesson book written by a long time Church of Christ minister and servant of Jesus. Intended for Bible Class studies, this book can also be used for personal evangelism.



Most Bible class study books on this subject begin with Genesis 3. This study however, lays the foundation by beginning with a basic study-outline of Biblical History, which is sorely lacking among many Christians today. Then after laying this foundation, it seeks to present a "Synthesis of Scripture" by asserting that the theme of all the Bible is Jesus, His Death, Burial, and Resurrection! The Eternal Purpose of God for Redemption is then presented with an in-depth study of Ephesians 1, and other New Testament passages which describe God's redemptive plan.

It is not until the fourth lesson that God's Eternal Purpose in Genesis 3 is presented. Then other Promises, Pictures, Prophecy, and Prep-

**"AN EXCITING STUDY OF GOD'S
POWER AND REVELATION IN
HUMAN HISTORY"**

aration, are fully described. This study includes a description of the Davidic Covenant, as well as a helpful approach to Old Testament Prophecy.

This guide is helpful for all Christians, but especially new Christians who need an understanding of God's eternal desire for all the world!

This book can be bought on Amazon for \$10.



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Located at occg.institute, TOPICAL LESSONS , 02 WINGS OF EAGLES

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never made a
skilled sailor.*
Barry & Ace

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