

Discussion Questions
“The Spirit’s Fruit (Part 6): Goodness”
Psalms 65; Galatians 5:22-23, Acts 11:19-30

1. Describe the difference between the secular world’s emphasis on “tolerance” (from perhaps 15-20 years ago) and its current emphasis on “affirmation.” What are the positives and negatives of living in a pluralistic society? How is first-century Greco-Roman society different than our democratic global culture today? How are they similar?
2. Why is “tolerance” or “affirmation” a “fake fruit” that imitates kindness?
3. Describe the kind of religious atmosphere in which “niceness” takes the place of the spiritual fruit of kindness. What is lacking in such an environment? What positives and negatives are there in such an environment?
4. What is the relationship between judgment and kindness? Between judgment and being judgmental? What is lacking in our experience if we become judgmental people? Describe the atmosphere of a religious community that is superficially “nice” but subtly judgmental? Can repentance, faith, and growth in grace happen within such an environment?
5. What can we do as a church to create a context in which the spiritual fruit of kindness may take root and grow? Describe the atmosphere of a “kindness”-oriented church? What will it say and do when people sin against one another, or against the Lord? How will its elders and leaders shepherd people?
6. To whom are you being called to bear the fruit of kindness in the weeks ahead? Be specific.
7. What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it? Who is going to help you?