

## The Fruit of the Spirit is Grace

Galatians 5:22

- I. Patience – To be patient indefinitely with the faults of others, graciously withholding our anger
- *Makrothymia* – Long-suffering, restrained, unperturbed...
  - Romans 2:4 & 9:22 – God withholds His anger for extended time even though people deserve judgment.
  - Ephesians 4:2 – We can patiently endure the faults of others without giving in to our natural anger (James 1:19-20).
  - James 5:7-8 – We must be patient with each other because God is the one who judges.
  - **How?** As we grasp God's patience with our sin, we can restrain our anger at others by the Spirit's power.
- II. Kindness – To treat people with gracious sensitivity whether or not they deserve it
- *Chrēstotēs* – Mellow, merciful, not harsh, no "edge," not tense
  - Luke 6:35, 36 – God is kind and merciful to his enemies and rewards us when we are.
  - Ephesians 4:32 – We can be kind, compassionate and forgiving to those who hurt us because God forgives us.
  - **How?** – When the Spirit gives us God's sensitivity to others, we can treat them kindly by His power.
- III. Goodness – To be positive and diligent, graciously taking the initiative to benefit others
- *Agathōsynē* – Good generally – faithful, positive, reaches out...
  - God is the only one truly good (Luke 18:19).
- Specific biblical examples of "goodness"

  - A boss who is considerate (1 Peter 2:18)
  - A man who is generous (Matthew 20:15)
  - A servant who is trustworthy (Matthew 25:21)
  - A woman working diligently at home (Titus 2:5)
  - A man who says positive, helpful things (Luke 6:45)
  - A man who encourages others (Acts 11:24)
- **How?** – Only through the Holy Spirit, of course! (Barnabas: "A good man, full of the Holy Spirit" – Acts 11:24)