

Galatians 5:22-23; Exodus 33:19-20; Titus 3:3-5; Luke 6:35-36

Series – Forward to Maturity

Message – Kindness & Goodness: The Love of God in Action

October 25, 2026

Fifth Reformed Church

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“Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity” (Hebrews 6:1a).

Meaning and Nuance

- Exodus 33:19

Word	Kindness (<i>chrēstotēs</i>)	Goodness (<i>agathōsynē</i>)
Definition	Goodness, uprightness, kindness, gentleness	Goodness
Core Meaning	Gentle, relational goodness; kindness expressed softly	Strong, active goodness; uprightness expressed in action
Tone	Soft, gracious	Strong, vigorous
Texture	Avoids harshness; opposed to severity	May include necessary severity for the sake of good
Action	Encourages, comforts	Seeks the good, may challenge and correct
Nuance	Kindness in manner	Goodness in behavior

- The goodness of God is _____ words.
- “The whole gospel is nothing but one entire mirror of divine goodness” (Stephen Charnock quoted in Jonathan Landry Cruse, The Character of Christ, p.100).

The Gospel of Goodness

- Titus 3:3-5
- The Problem
 - The problem is that sin has corrupted our nature such that we are naturally _____ to do wrong things.
- The Solution

- The kindness and love of God our Savior...

- Christmas is about the physical _____ of gentle, relational goodness, of kindness expressed softly, and of a love for human beings that prompts extravagant giving.
- “If you want to be good you need to be converted. Put down the self-help books. Quit looking for shortcuts and life hacks. Cease striving. Look to Jesus” (Jonathan Landry Cruse, The Character of Christ, p.103).

Kindness to the Least Deserving

- Luke 6:35-36
- Spiritual Metric – level of willingness to love our enemies
- Reason – “[God] is kind to the ungrateful and wicked”
- 2 Peter 1:5-9 – growth trajectory

Reflection Questions

- Look through the word chart for kindness and goodness. What captured your attention? Where’s the friction for you as you think about your life?
- Share one way you’ve seen the aspect of the fruit of the Spirit in one of the members of your group.
- Have you sensed growth in yourself with regard to the metric of loving your enemies? Discuss this as a group. Who do you find most difficult to love? Why do you think that is? Where have you seen glimmers of love for others within you that you know has come from beyond you?
- What was the most challenging part of this message for you?
- How is God getting your attention?
- What might God be saying to you?
- What is your next faithful step?