



Young Mothers 2018

September 30, 2018 | Lesson 04

Assignment:

Young Mother's SS on *Kindness*,
Lessons from 2010 and 2014

Good / Kind

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Memory Passage: Galatians 6:9-10

*Let us not lose heart in doing good,
for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.*

*So then, while we have opportunity,
let us do good to all people,
and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

Our day bears similarities to the culture of Crete and Rome in Titus' day, and to some of the thinking that Paul had to refute and encourage Christians against in his letters to young pastors. We are in a constant battle—of the mind, of lifestyle, and of values.

1. What Does it Mean to Be “Good?”

A. “Good” and “Kind” are intertwined in meaning, and very close also to “Gentle.”

Kind/Kindness—refers more to our demeanor; smooth; easy; with a **tender caring** for others, **leading to kind actions**

Gentle/Gentleness—also refers more to our outward behavior or bearing; **yielding** (as in not resistant or obstinate); disinterested and fair in dealing with others (also sometimes translated as “meek/meekness”)

Good/Goodness—a more general quality; always refers to what we **ARE**, and therefore shows in what we **DO**

B. The word “good” affects everything about us—our hearts and minds, our speech, our actions, our conscience, and our lifestyle.

Christians are to . . .

- display it, Romans 12:2
- cleave to it, Romans 12:9
- overcome evil with it, Romans 12:21
- do good to all, Galatians 6:10
- work it with our hands, Ephesians 4:28
- have good words, Ephesians 4:29
- seek after it, I Thessalonians 5:15
- do good as opposed to evil, I Peter 3:11
- be zealous of it, I Peter 3:13
- have a good conscience and behavior, I Peter 3:16

C. The word refers first to what we are “congenitally.”

We are born with it when we come into God’s family and the Holy Spirit indwells us.

D. Because of what we inherently ARE, we then can DO what is good toward others.

- It means doing a kindly activity that is beneficial in its effect on others, and not simply in a kindly manner.

Bible examples:

1. Christ cleansing the temple was a kindly activity on the Pharisees’ spiritual behalf.
 2. In Luke 7:37ff and John 8:1-22, Christ behaved toward these two women in a kindly manner.
- So GOOD sometimes includes “sterner qualities” in our actions and is not always necessarily pleasant for the recipient.

Practical Examples

1. Insisting our children eat foods that are good for them
2. Giving the gospel to an unsaved person

“Do? Lassie, do? You’ve not got to do, you’ve just got to be, and the doing will follow.”

~Mary Slessor, Scottish missionary to Africa, when a young helper was overwhelmed with how she should spend her time.

11. Application – How We Get It

A. We “get good” by being born again into God’s family. He makes us good, and gives us the Holy Spirit Who lives in us, continually conforming us to Christ’s image through the Word.

B. We have a command to “Walk in the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:25 – It is helpful to spend some time studying the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5.

11. Application – What It Looks Like

A. Biblical goodness is an inner virtue that is the opposite of all ill will and vice.

If we are clean of those attitudes and feelings on the inside, it will show on the outside.

B. It includes empathy for others that shows.

Feeling what others feel enables us to know how to do what is beneficial for them.

C. Key to this virtue is the benefit of its object.

D. What we do is for the best for someone, even if they don’t appreciate it.

It can include but goes beyond making others happy.

E. This is going to look somewhat different for each individual, so allow for Christian liberty in application. (Romans 14:2)



III. Application – for Family and Others

A. Husband

EMPATHY—put yourself in his shoes. Educate yourself in men’s needs, and especially YOUR man’s needs and desires, which will vary from others’.

- Proverbs 31:12 says that the wise woman does her husband “*good and not evil.*” This Hebrew word also means what is of *benefit or welfare*. Its opposite (“evil”) means *injury, disaster or harm*.
- Proverbs 31 gives us a few guidelines:
 1. We need to be trustworthy. A good woman’s husband and his reputation / testimony are “safe” with her.
 2. We keep him well-fed and well-clothed.
 3. We manage finances carefully.
 4. We take care of ourselves.
 5. We are mindful of our own spiritual condition and ministry.

ENCOURAGEMENT and RESPECT. In order to survive and provide, God made men with a need/desire to win. They daily face a world of competition and temptation.

Make him HAPPY. Even Abigail could do at least that with her Nabal.

B. Children

You need to KNOW THEM in order to do them good. Be discerning of each one as an individual, so that you can train them up *“in the way [they] should go,”* Proverbs 22:6.

- Think and pray about the best ways to instill in them a love for and trust in God, to teach them heart obedience, kindness, love, self-control, patience, humility, and other godly virtues. The WORD and PRAYER are mighty weapons in our warfare for the hearts of our little ones!
- EMPATHY—have compassion and understanding for them in their struggle against sin. Sin is a hard taskmaster for them, as it is with us.
- Children need SECURITY. This comes through agape love for them, phileo love for them, LIKING them, and CONSISTENCY in their young lives.
- Some specifics:
 1. It is GOOD to teach a child the word “No” (life has many “No’s.”)
 2. It is GOOD to teach a child to work hard and do things he or she doesn’t enjoy doing.
 3. It is GOOD to teach a child principles of giving to the Lord’s work, and how to manage finances.
 4. It is GOOD to teach a child to control their emotions and wills.
 5. It is GOOD to teach a child what love is, by exhibiting it.
 6. It is GOOD to teach a child to be good and kind to others, by example as well as precept.
 7. It is GOOD to instill in children a love of learning. (READ BOOKS!)
 8. It is GOOD to train them in godly virtues while they are young so that they have less to contend with in their own sanctification process!

C. Others

- Fellow believers. Galatians 6:10, “especially” do good to our family in Christ.
 - Our tongues need to be trained to be full of *“Apples of gold in settings of silver,”* Proverbs 25:11. WORDS of encouragement, empathy, and sincere interest. Look beyond self, step into another’s shoes, and *put aside your concerns and burdens.*
 - *“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity”* (Proverbs 17:17) means we ought to particularly do GOOD to those who are struggling. Remember “the Golden Rule.”
- The unsaved.
 - We want to EMPATHIZE and seek to ENCOURAGE them as anyone else. But the greatest good we can do is give them TRUTH. It is not “good” to omit a conscious effort to manifest God’s concern for their eternal souls.
 - Look beyond their sin, have compassion for their lost condition, their spiritual blindness (Proverbs 24:11-12). If you focus on that, it becomes easier to give them Truth.
 - Good ACTS are part of the command of the Galatians verse too. They can go a long way to softening hearts toward the gospel.

**“To a wife,
a mother, a sister,
there can be no higher
characteristic described
than to say she is GOOD.
What other TRAIT OF MIND
will enable her better
to perform her appropriate
duties of life?”
Albert Barnes**