

## STUDY GUIDE

Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 11:22; 2 Cor. 1-6

“Living by the Spirit: The Fruit of Kindness”

- 1) In announcing his intention to run for public office, Ben Carson stated that he wanted to do what’s “right” rather than what is “expedient.” Why should that also true for those of us who claim Christ?
- 2) In what ways are the meanings of words “*kindness*” and “*goodness*” alike? How are they different?
- 3) Why is “*kindness*” as the gentleness of character and inner heart toward others is difficult for us? Share reasons we might struggle with that statement and the ways we could be blind to that truth.
- 4) Why did Paul speak of the stark contrast between the “*kindness of God*” and the “*severity of God*” when he dealt with the spiritual pride of God’s people in Romans 11? Discuss the differing contrasts between the “*kindness of God*” and the “*severity of God*.”
- 5) Define the *fruit* of the Spirit of “*kindness*” – *first* using the sermon notes, *then* your own words.
- 6) Highlight and share the words and/or verses from 2 Corinthians 1-6 quoted in the sermon that reflect how we should live out the gentle character of God’s heart expressing generosity towards each other.
- 7) The world, the devil and our flesh) seek to promote their own agendas by trying to convince us that we are the center of everything – which will ultimately make us violent and angry because we are not God. Discuss other ways that the three main opponents of our faith in Christ use to keep us from embracing and possessing a gentle character of God’s heart that seeks to express generosity towards others.
- 8) FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION: Discuss the implications (personally and for the church) of . . .

*For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. . . . if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:14-16*