



Mt. Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church
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Dear MLEPC Friends,

“Words have usage, not meaning.” This is one of those phrases that drives many people crazy. What does it mean? Well, we understand many words based on how they are used, rather than their actual definition. For example, if I were to ask you to define the word, “plug,” what comes to mind? If you were my grandfather, you’d think of a chunk of chewing tobacco. Maybe the end of an electrical cord. In some houses, maybe the electrical outlet is called the plug. Yes, when the cord is inserted into the outlet, you’ve plugged the plug into the plug.

We see this come into play through the attribute of the fruit of Spirit called “kindness.” Kindness, as we understand it today, is not quite what Paul had in mind when he was writing to the church in Galatia. “Kindness,” in my opinion, does not carry much weight. Paul uses the word *chrēstotēs* in the original Greek letter. This week, we will look into the word, *chrēstotēs*, and how it relates to the fruit of the Spirit.

One of the things I like most about Paul’s writings is his use of paradox. To many, paradoxes may seem like a contradiction. In the book of Romans, we see Paul lay out several paradoxes-Captivity and freedom. Death and life. Buried and resurrected. Wages and gifts. These are not contradictions. They are truths that need to be understood in light of each other. Additionally, they must be understood together. In the fifth chapter of Galatians, Paul gives us another paradox to consider, law and freedom. Through our exploration of “kindness,” we will uncover another paradox- freedom and responsibility. I am excited to share these verses with you all. I am both honored and humbled to have been asked to share a word with Mt. Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church. I have my work cut out for me, trying to fill in for Pastor Carolyn and Pastor Steve. I appreciate your prayers leading up to, and including Sunday.

Until Sunday,
Drew