



PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD

 We are One in Christ
PNW Conference Devotional • Day Four

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:22-23, NRSV

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

REFLECTION: KINDNESS

By Rev. Cara Scriven

While in most circles the words nice and kind are interchangeable, they are not in my house. I often talk to my daughters about the difference between these two words.

Nice is defined as “acting in a way that is correct according to social or moral rules.”¹ In this way, being nice is about being seen as well-behaved and following the norms established by society.

Kind, on the other hand, can be defined as “having or showing a gentle nature and a desire to help others.”² Kind is about a way of being that is not concerned about outward appearances or societal norms.

Disciples of Jesus may be nice but the Gospel calls us to be more than that. We are called to not only want, but also to enjoy doing good things for others. We do this, not for the sake of approval, but rather to bring others happiness.

I pray that through our conversations my daughters will have the spirit of kindness even when the norms of society dictate otherwise.

Cont.

¹ <http://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/nice>

² <http://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/kind>

PRAYER

Creator God, our parents taught us how to be nice and well-behaved so others will like us. We are grateful for this learning, but we know that you ask more of us. Stir within us, spirits of kindness and the desire to do good for others so that others may discover the abundant life you dream for them.

Amen.