

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Introduction

- 1) There is a constant struggle for the Christian in his daily walk of life – “Shall I be led by the Spirit or by the flesh?” (Gal. 5:16-18)
- 2) We cannot walk according to both the flesh and the Spirit – they go in opposite directions to different ends (Gal. 6:8; Rom. 8:13-14)
- 3) This difference is illustrated by contrasting the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:19-23)
- 4) In this lesson we will give particular attention to “the fruit of the Spirit” (vv. 22-23)

I) *The Nature of the Fruit of the Spirit*

- A) **But** – contrast with the works of the flesh - different source, nature, and result (Gal. 5:17; 6:8)
- B) **Fruit** – a godly attitude and character exhibited by one’s life in Christ (Matt. 12:33; Jn. 15:5)
- C) **Of the Spirit** – our life in Christ is walking according to the Spirit of God (Gal. 2:20; 5:25)
- D) **Against such there is no law** – no condemnation when led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:1-2, 6, 14)

II) *Love*

- A) Active good will toward one’s fellowman; seeks the highest good, not ignoring or hating
- B) Not just a feeling but actions of love (Matt. 5:44; Jn. 15:12-13; Rom. 13:10; 1 Jn. 3:18)

III) *Joy*

- A) Rejoicing, inner happiness; not dependent on outward circumstances (Phil. 2:17; 4:4)
- B) Found in one’s relationship with God (Jn. 15:11; Rom. 14:17; 15:13; Heb. 10:34)

IV) *Peace*

- A) Spiritual soundness of body, mind, welfare, prosperity, contentment, harmony
- B) To be found with God, fellowman, and self (Rom. 5:1; 12:18; Eph. 4:3; Phil. 4:6-7)

V) *Longsuffering*

- A) “Long-tempered,” steadfastness, endurance, forbearance, patience (Eph. 4:1-2; Heb. 6:12)
- B) So important in being able to be patient and forgiving of others (Col. 1:9-11; 3:12-13)

VI) *Kindness*

- A) Goodness of heart, sweetness of temper; calm and gentle disposition (“easy” Matt. 11:30)
- B) God’s kindness toward us leads us to be kind to others (Eph. 2:7; Titus 3:4; Eph. 4:32)

VII) *Goodness*

- A) Uprightness of heart and life; seeks the benefit and best of others, generous (Eph. 5:9)
- B) Opposite of what is evil/bad and mean/grudging; can be both kind and strong (Rom. 15:14)

VIII) *Faithfulness*

- A) One who can be relied on, loyalty that can be depended on (Matt. 25:21; 1 Cor. 4:2)
- B) Loyalty to God and men (Rev. 2:10; Titus 2:10)

IX) *Gentleness*

- A) Meekness, mild, gentle; not weakness (Matt. 11:29; 2 Cor. 10:1; Jas. 1:21; 1 Pet. 3:15; Titus 3:2)
- B) Longsuffering when patiently confronting sins and sinners (Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:24-25)

X) *Self-Control*

- A) Temperance, self-mastery and control in all areas of life (1 Cor. 9:25; 7:9)
- B) Having dominance over one’s thoughts, words, and actions (Acts 24:25; 2 Pet. 1:6)

Conclusion

The fruit of the Spirit must be exhibited in our minds and actions. Failure to do so will invite the works of the flesh into our lives. When we crucify the flesh with its passions and desires, we will then live and walk in step with the Spirit (Gal. 5:24-25). This is Christ living in us (Gal. 2:20)!

Fruits of the Flesh	Opposite of...	Fruits of the Holy Spirit
Adultery	Love/Faithfulness/Self Control	Love
Fornication	Love/Faithfulness/Self Control	Joy
Uncleanness	Faithfulness/Self Control	Peace
Lewdness	Goodness/Kindness	Long Suffering
Idolatry	Love/Faithfulness	Kindness
Sorcery	Love/Goodness/Faithfulness	Goodness
Hatred	Kindness/Peace/Long Suffering/Self Control	Faithfulness
Contention	Peace/Kindness/Goodness	Gentleness
Jealousies	Love/Kindness/Longsuffering	Self Control
Outbursts of Wrath	Self Control/Kindness/Love/Peace	Galatians 5:24 "And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."
Selfish Ambitions	Kindness/Love/Gentleness	
Dissensions	Peace/Self Control	
Heresies	Love/Peace/Goodness	
Envy	Love/Kindness/Longsuffering	
Murders	Love/Kindness/Longsuffering	
Drunkenness	Self Control	
Revelries	Joy/Self Control	

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