

“The Fruit of the Spirit”

Galatians 5:22-25

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Galatians 5:22-25** – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, we must also follow the Spirit.
1. The apostle Paul lists nine things the Spirit of God produces for our welling and spiritual growth.

a. Love	d. Patience	g. Faith
b. Joy	e. Kindness	h. Gentleness
c. Peace	f. Goodness	i. Self-control
 2. These nine fruit (singular) are the by-product of Christ’s control of our lives.
 3. They come to us through His will and with His help.
 4. In order to have them, we must:
 - Know Him
 - Love Him
 - Remember Him
 - Imitate Him
- B. Paul's introduction of the word fruit is filled with meaning. While we might have expected him to say, "The works of the Spirit are," Paul needed to use a fresh term. He had used "works" enough throughout this letter.
1. Besides, “works” (plural) indicates lots of activities that people must do.
 2. "Fruit," however, is singular, indicating that all the fruits exist as a single unit, (like a bunch of grapes rather than many different pieces of fruit) and that all are important to all believers (unlike "gifts" that are dispensed differently to different people). **So Paul conveyed the meaning of a full harvest of virtues.**
 3. Also, "fruit" is a by-product; it takes time to grow and requires care and cultivation. The Spirit produces the fruit; our job is to live in harmony with the Spirit.
 4. The fruit of the Spirit separates Christians from a godless, evil world, reveals a power within them, and helps them become more Christ-like in their daily lives.
- C. The nine are easily divided into three categories:
1. **THE FIRST THREE ARE INWARD AND COME FROM GOD.**
 - a. Love
 - b. Joy
 - c. Peace

2. **THE SECOND THREE CONCERN EACH CHRISTIAN'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS:**
 - a. Patience
 - b. Kindness
 - c. Goodness
3. **THE FINAL THREE ARE MORE GENERAL TRAITS IN A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE.**
 1. Faith
 2. Gentleness
 3. Self-control

INWARD FRUIT THAT COMES FROM GOD

A. **LOVE** (agape)

1. Love as shown by Jesus, whose love is self-sacrificing and unchanging, and as demonstrated by God who sent his Son for sinners.
2. **Romans 5:8** – “But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us!”
3. Love forms the foundation for all the other fruit listed. Love seeks the better good of the one to whom it is directed. Agape love.
4. Elsewhere, Paul breaks love itself down into various components (see 1 Corinthians 13), so that "love" turns out to bear little resemblance to the emotional meaning so often given to the word.

B. **JOY** (chara)

1. An inner rejoicing that abides despite outer circumstances.
2. This characteristic has little to do with happiness and can exist in times of unhappiness.
3. It is a deep and nourishing satisfaction that continues even when a life situation seems empty and unsatisfying.
4. The relationship with God through Christ remains even in the deserts and valleys of living.

C. **PEACE** (eirene)

1. An inner quietness and trust in God's sovereignty and justice, even in the face of adverse circumstances.
2. This is a profound agreement with the truth that God, not we, remains in charge of the universe.

INWARD FRUIT THAT COMES FROM EACH CHRISTIAN'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

A. PATIENCE/LONGSUFFERING (makrothumia)

1. Patiently putting up with people who continually irritate us.
2. The Holy Spirit's work helps us to increase our endurance.

B. KINDNESS (chrestotes)

1. Acting charitably, benevolently toward others, as God did toward us.
2. Kindness takes the initiative in responding to other people's needs.

C. GOODNESS (agathosune)

1. Reaching out to do good to others, even if they don't deserve it.
2. Goodness does not react to evil but absorbs the offense and responds with positive action.

THE FINAL THREE ARE MORE GENERAL TRAITS IN A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

A. FAITHFULNESS (pistis)

1. Faithfulness
 - a. Reliable
 - b. Trustworthy
2. The Christian will be a faithful individual, an individual faithful to his word and promises; an individual who can be trusted or confided in.

B. GENTLENESS (prates)

1. Humble, considerate of others, submissive to God and his Word.
2. Even when anger is the appropriate response, as when Jesus cleared the temple, gentleness keeps the expression of anger headed in the right direction.
3. Gentleness applies even force in the correct way.

C. SELF-CONTROL (egkrateia)

1. Mastery over sinful human desires and their lack of restraint. Ironically, our sinful desires, which promise self-fulfillment and power, inevitably lead us to slavery.
2. When we surrender to the God's will, initially we feel as though we have lost control, but he leads us to the exercise of self-control that would be impossible in our own strength.

CONCLUSION:**A. The Spirit produces these character traits that are found in the nature of Christ.**

1. They are the by-products of Christ's control; we can't obtain them by trying to get them without his help.

2. If we want the fruit of the Spirit to grow in us, we must align our lives to his **John 15:4-5** – Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. ⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me.
 - a. We must know him.
 - b. We must love him.
 - c. We must remember him.
 - d. We must imitate him.
 3. To understand the fruit of the Spirit, we must see ourselves, not as individual trees, but as an entire garden under the cultivation of God's Spirit.
 - a. His purpose involves not simply the production of a single kind of fruit but all the fruit, each becoming ripe as it is needed.
 - b. No one person can perfectly exemplify all the fruit all the time.
 - c. We are all needed to produce God's harvest of virtue.
 - d. We must not be discouraged if our love or patience is not perfect.
 - e. **Don't let your lack of fruitfulness in some areas destroy what God is trying to do in you today.**
 4. **A wonderful salvation awaits you with your obedience to Christ.**
- B. GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN'S SALVATION**