

The Fruit of the Spirit

102217AM

Galatians 5:19-26

- Gen. 1 – all living things brought forth “according to its kind.”
- Christian character is no different – the fruit that we bear is of the “kind” of seed from which it springs – Lk. 8:11.
- Gal. 5:16-26 contrasts the “works of the flesh” with the “fruit of the Spirit” & 6:8 describes the harvests.

Love, Joy & Peace

Derive from our relationship with God.

- 1 Jn. 4:8 “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”
- 1 Jn. 4:19 “We love Him because He first loved us” Also 1 Jn. 5:3; Jn. 14:15
- Rom. 15:13 “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Also Phil. 4:9.
- A love focused on what it can do for others.
- A joy that prevails even in trials of faith.
- A peace surpassing all understanding – Phil. 4:7.

Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness

Govern our relationships with others.

- 1 Pet. 2:22-23 – All three were demonstrated by Jesus!
Longsuffering – patience forbearance.
- Rom. 2:7 – patient in well doing.
- Rom. 12:12 – patient in tribulation.
- 1 Thess. 5:14 – patient toward all men.
- 2 Thess. 3:5 – patiently waiting for Christ.

Kindness – usefulness, i.e. morally, excellence (in character or demeanor): --gentleness, good(-ness), kindness.

- 2 Tim. 2:24 “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient” Also Eph. 4:32.

Goodness – goodness, i.e. virtue or beneficence:--goodness.

- Rom. 12:21 “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Also Rom. 15:14.

Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control

Reciprocal blessings

Faithfulness – persuasion, moral conviction, assurance.

- Lk. 17:5 “And the apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith.” Compare Rom. 10:17.

Gentleness – by implication, humility:--meekness.

- 2 Cor. 10:1a “Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ...” Also Eph. 4:32.
- Mat. 5:5 “Blessed are the meek...”

Self control – temperance.

- 1 Cor. 9:25 “And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.”
- 1 Cor. 9:26-27 – Paul's interpretation.
- Gal. 5:24 “And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Decision...

- Mat. 7:18 “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.”
- “Bad fruit” = the works of the flesh.
- “Good fruit” = the fruit of the Spirit.
- Lk. 6:43-46 – what we say and do proves our identity.
- Most agree that there is not enough goodness in the world – will you add some today?