

The Fruit of the Spirit

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Galatians 5:22-23

1. If a Christian lives in the Spirit, then it is shown by walking in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

2. A devoted child of God will shun walking in darkness and strive diligently to put on the godly qualities of the fruit of the Spirit.
3. As Christians we should be eager to mold our character into the person that God wants us to be in obedience to Him.
4. This morning we are going to take some time to examine each quality of the “fruit of the Spirit.”

The Fruit of the Spirit

1. Love.

A. Definition: “Seeks the highest good of others.”

1 John 4:7-12

- 1) Love is not based on emotions or feelings. It is a decision to be committed to the well being of others.

2. Joy.**A. Definition: “Gladness not based on circumstances.”****1 Peter 1:8-9**

- 1) Joy is more than happiness. It is not based on financial success, good health, or popularity.
- 2) True joy is achieved by believing in God, obeying His will, receiving His forgiveness, participating in fellowship with other Christians, helping others, and sharing the gospel.

3. Peace.**A. Definition: “Contentment, unity between people.”****Philippians 4:6-7**

- 1) Peace is a state of assurance, lack of fear, and a calming sense of contentment.
- 2) It is having harmony and unity between individuals. Peace is freedom from worry, disturbance, and oppressive thoughts.

4. Patience.**A. Definition: “Slow to speak and slow to anger.”****James 5:8-9**

- 1) Patience is a slowness in avenging wrongs.
- 2) It is the quality of restraint that prevents Christians from speaking or acting hastily in the face of disagreement, opposition, or persecution.
- 3) Patience is bearing problems without complaining.

5. Kindness.

A. Definition: “Merciful, sweet, and tender.”

Proverbs 11:16-17

- 1) **Kindness is an eagerness to put others at ease.**
- 2) **It is a sweet and attractive temperament that shows friendly regard for others.**

6. Goodness.

A. Definition: “Generous and openhearted.”

Galatians 6:9-10

- 1) **Goodness is the selfless desire to be openhearted and generous to others above what they deserve.**

7. Faithfulness.

A. Definition: “Dependable, loyal, and full of trust.”

Psalms 101:6 My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, That they may dwell with me; He who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me.

Revelation 2:10Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Hebrews 11:6

- 1) **Faithfulness is firm devotion to God, loyalty to friends, and dependability to carry out our responsibilities.**
- 2) **Faith is the conviction that even now God is working and acting on our behalf.**

8. Gentleness.**A. Definition: “Humble, calm, non-threatening.”**

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

1 Peter 3:15

- 1) **Gentleness is a humble, non-threatening demeanor that derives from a position of strength and authority.**
- 2) **It is useful in calming another’s anger.**
- 3) **Gentleness is not a quality that is weak and passive.**

9. Self-Control.**A. Definition: “Behaving well.”**

Proverbs 29:11 A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back.

Titus 2:11-12

- 1) **Self-control is to restrain our own emotions, actions, and desires, and to be in harmony with the will of God.**
- 2) **Self-control is doing God’s will and not living for ourselves.**

Conclusion

- 1. In order to “put on the qualities” of the fruit of the Spirit, it takes a strong desire to be like Christ.**
 - A. He must be the very center of our life, knowing that all we do and all we think about revolves around our Savior.**
 - B. It is easy to be like the worldly, but it takes a dedicated commitment to be like Jesus.**

- 2. May we all strive to add the qualities of the fruit of the Spirit!**

