

Galatians (Good Fruit)

Good Fruit

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Galatians 5:22-26

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Paul used the plural in describing life after the flesh (works of the flesh), but he uses the singular (fruit of the Spirit). Fruit is singular, not plural. It is not that every believer has one and another a different one. Every believer is supposed to produce all aspects of the fruit because the Spirit has ONE work to do in all of us.

Psalm 34:8 *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!*

- **Love** (Greek, *agapē*). In that language there were four distinct words for “love.” This spiritual love is above and beyond natural affection, or loyalty to family. Some scholars say that the following eight terms are just describing what love in action looks like.

Its Taste: **Matthew 5:43-46, 48**

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Cf. 1

Corinthians 13

- **Joy** (Greek, *chara*) this is joy of the Spirit, because it is a higher joy than just the thrill of an exciting experience or good circumstances. It is a joy that can remain and abide, even when circumstances seem terrible.

Its Taste: **James 1:2-4**

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Cf. Romans 15:13

- **Peace** (Greek, *eirēnē*) not just freedom from trouble but an assurance of the heart which comes from knowing that our lives are in the hands of God.

Its Taste: **Philippians 4:7**

*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Cf. **John 14:27-28***

- **Patience/Longsuffering** (Greek, *makrothymia*), **Kindness/Goodness** (Greek, *agathōsynē*) to bear adversity, injury, reproach, and makes them patient to wait for the improvement of those who have done him wrong and respond with love, joy, and peace.

Its Taste: **Romans 2:4**

*4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? Cf. **Romans 9:22-23***

- **Faithfulness** (Greek, *pistis*) & **Self-control** (Greek, *egkrateia*) being reliable in the Spirit the ability to control oneself involving moderation, constraint, and the ability to say “no” to our baser desires and fleshly lusts.

Its Taste: **2 Timothy 1:7**

*For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. Cf. **1 Corinthians 10:13***

- **Gentleness** (Greek, *chrēstotēs*) isn't timidity or passiveness, but a quality of one who is always angry at the right time and never at the wrong time.

Its Taste: **Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 2:25**

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

*Correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, Cf. **Proverbs 15:1***

Discipleship Homework:

Use the questions and statements below to help you apply the teaching into your life.

- What are some biblical examples of how Jesus lived out the fruit described in the notes?
- Identify times when you have exhibited or struggled with any of the fruits of the Spirit. Pray for the Spirit to continue to increase fruit in your life.
- How can the fruit of the Spirit can be manifested in a community setting?
- Have questions about the message or need help with the homework? Please email Pastor Jarrod at jarrod@1116.church.