

Pastor Robert Rutta

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

In John chapter 15 Jesus taught His disciples concerning the importance of bearing fruit.

John 15:1-3

It is clear from this chapter that He wants us to bear fruit...more fruit...and much fruit, because this is the way we glorify Him.

The key to bearing fruit is in v4.

We must abide in Christ.

In our passage this evening the "fruit of the Spirit" has to do with the character traits of the Holy Spirit.

It is the character of the Holy Spirit that God wants to see in our lives.

Gal 5:16 tells us to walk in the Spirit.

V17 mentions the battle that we face.

V19-21 tells us the works of the flesh.

If you are walking in the Spirit, then you will not commit the sins that are listed in v.19-21.

Those are all things that come from the flesh.

The battle is real. If we let our guard down it is easy to fall.

As you surrender to Christ and walk in the Spirit, you find that you have the Fruit (not fruits) of the Spirit showing forth in your life.

v22-24

You become like those who you spend the most time with.

As you spend time walking in the Spirit, you start taking on His characteristics.

Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

These words act as a description of the very nature of God.

I. Note the Contrast between Works and Fruit

A. Work is the result of effort being put forth.

A machine in a factory works, and turns out a product.

But you cannot manufacture fruit.

You may be able to imitate and counterfeit color, shape, smell, and even taste...but it is still a manufactured product.

(Look at all of the bottles of "fruit juice" on the store shelves that have no fruit juice in them – just fruit flavouring.

It may be similar, but it doesn't replace the real thing.)

B. Fruit is the natural result of proper growth.

It is not manufactured, it is grown.

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so." Gen. 1:11

God created all in this manner.

He commanded Adam & Eve to be fruitful and multiply that the earth might be filled.

Matthew 21:19

19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

When Jesus came upon the fig tree, He expected it to be bearing figs.

He was angry because it **looked** like it should have figs, but it didn't have any.

Fruit-bearing is the natural result of proper growth.

What do I need to do in order to grow?

- Fill myself with God's Word and stay in close communication with Him.

C. Fruit is the manifestation of character.

Matthew 12:33-35

33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: **for the tree is known by his fruit.**

34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

The men who went into the Promised Land to spy brought back the fruit of the land to illustrate the marvelous character of that place.

Numbers 13:26

And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.

Speaking of those who would be His disciples Jesus said,

John 15:8

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

God is glorified when we bear fruit – when you take on His attributes.

Whether it is the tree, the land, or the person...their character is manifested by their fruit.

If you are walking with the Lord, then it will show.

II. The Fruit of the Spirit

A. Note that this is the fruit of the Spirit.

That means that it is not worked up by our efforts...

Rather, it is the natural result of an individual's growth in the Spirit.

This is what should happen in our lives as a direct result of the indwelling Spirit, being filled with the Spirit, and walking or being led by the Spirit.

B. Note the divisions of qualities.

1. The first three deals with our relation to our **Heavenly Father.**

Love – the very essence of who and what God is.

Joy – inner gladness, “the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

...that inward peace and sufficiency that is not effected by outward circumstances.

Peace – wholeness and soundness, contentment.

...Paul wrote that it was the peace that passeth all understanding.

2. The next three have to do with our relationship to **others**.

Longsuffering – patience, perseverance, steadfast, courageous endurance without quitting. This is one of the greatest traits of God.

Gentleness – kind and good, helpful, considerate, and gracious.

Goodness – Full of virtue and excellence, kindness, helpfulness. This is love in action.

A believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit will be longsuffering and will not seek to avenge himself. He will be kind and gentle, even with the most offensive.

And he will sow goodness where others sow evil.

Human nature cannot accomplish these things...this is the manifestation of the Spirit of God.

3. The final three deal with our relationship to **ourselves**.

Faith – trusting God. Faithfulness would be a part of this; loyal, enduring.

Meekness – Gentleness, compassion, tender, considerate, humble; but all out of strength. There is no weakness in meekness. It is the ability to defend yourself, but stepping back. The meek person controls his spirit and mind.

Temperance – moderation, balance, everything in the right amount. It has to do with self-control.

C. How to recognize counterfeits.

It is possible for the flesh to **counterfeit** some of the fruit of the Spirit.

But the flesh cannot **produce** the fruit of the Spirit!

When the Spirit produces fruit, God gets the glory.

When the flesh is at work, the person is inwardly proud of themselves and pleased when others compliment them.

The fruit of the Spirit is to make us more like Christ for **His** glory, not for the praise of men.

If we are filled with the Holy Spirit, as we are commanded to be, the fruit of the Spirit will be evident in our lives.

The character of Christ will flow out of our lives.

Note again: v19-21 The other side of the coin is seen here. If we aren't filled with the Spirit, then we are filled with selfishness and carnality.