

Study: Galatians

Text: Galatians 5:22-23

“THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—WALKING WITH GENTLENESS”

The only way for the believer to have success in the Christian life is by “walking in the Spirit”—being saturated by the Person of Jesus Christ and dominated by the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in the life of the believer.

I. The Flesh and the Spirit (5:16-21)

Paul *commands* us to “walk in the Spirit” so that we will “not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

The overarching attitude of our “walking in the Spirit” is to surrender one’s own will in full submission to God’s will. **We must have our mind saturated and dominated by the Person of Jesus Christ.**

II. The Fruit of the Spirit (v. 22-23)

The “fruit of the spirit” is a God empowered *attitude* of the heart that leads to *action* which characterizes the life—it is GODly *attitude* that leads to GODly *action*.

A. Walking with Love

This is the love of choice that is deliberate. It is self-sacrificing love that chooses to set aside one’s own wants, seeking the best for others.

B. Walking with Joy

Joy is an attitude of the heart that is based upon the Person that lives within me—the Holy Spirit.

C. Walking with Peace

Peace is the inner quietness of the soul despite the presence of the stormy surroundings due to one’s mind being fixed upon the Person and presence of God.

D. Walking with Patience

“*Longsuffering*” or *patience* carries the idea of selfless love, suffering long under adversity, pressing on for the benefit of others. Its focus is not on one’s self but on bringing glory to God in how I respond to others in difficulty.

E. Walking with Gentleness

1. The _____ of Gentleness

This word “*gentleness*” speaks of the kindness or goodness of heart—goodness in _____. It expresses itself in gracious actions of tenderness and compassion.

2. Christ’s _____ of Gentleness

2 Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.

Cf. Psalm 117:1-2

a. In His _____

(1) In His kindness, He offers _____ (Titus 3:4-7)

Ephesians 2:7 That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness [*gentleness*] toward us through Christ Jesus.

(2) His kindness leads us to _____ (Romans 2:4)

b. In His _____ (John 14:27)

3. Our Manifestation of Gentleness

Paul Chappell – *Gentleness* or kindness is the fruit that will make or break our Christian testimony. In society as a whole, *gentleness* is hard to come by. In the church, however, *gentleness* should be something that is frequently named among us.

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Q: How can you “prefer honor for others?”

a. By _____ others (Ephesians 4:32)

Cf. Colossians 3:13

b. By showing sensitivity (Philippians 2:4-5)

c. By showing _____ (Romans 12:15)

d. By doing _____ to others (Galatians 6:10)

Cf. Colossians 3:12; Matthew 5:43-44

What is my next step?

Q: In what ways can I show more kindness toward my neighbor? Based upon what God has done and what He has said, how will I respond to these areas in the future?

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“THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—WALKING WITH GOODNESS”

For next week consider “Walking with Goodness” (Galatians 5:22-23)

This word “goodness” speaks of character that is energized, expressing itself in active good—doing right in the midst of wrong.

Q: What was the price of Christ’s “goodness” in these passages?

- Romans 5:7-11 –
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 –

Q: In Ephesians 5:8-10 we see “goodness” as a “fruit of the Spirit” proves what?

Q: In Micah 6:8, what is good?

Q: What does Romans 3:12 & Romans 7:18 say about the amount of “goodness” that is in each of us?

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God’s Word with the intent to obey it – James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God’s Word to be more like Christ – Eph. 4:22-24

Date:_____ Text:_____ Speaker:_____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF**)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew**)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew**)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew**)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God,... (**Put ON**)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God’s help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don’t have a plan for change, it probably won’t happen.*)

*OUR MISSION: Passionately Serve God & Compassionately Serve Others—
ALL to the Glory of GOD*