

## FIGHT CLUB '09

Round 6 • Galatians 5:16-26/ “The Fruit of the Spirit”

---

**I. A Helpful Metaphor:** The process of photosynthesis helps us understanding the process of growth as a Christian.

**II. Main idea:** It is only when I am exposed to the gospel that I will begin to grow as a Christian, and manifest the genuine fruit of the Spirit.

**III. Our Passage:** Galatians 5:16-26

1. vv. 16-18– the war within
2. vv. 19-21– the “works” (weeds) of the flesh
3. vv. 22-23– the “fruit” of the Spirit
4. v. 24- show no mercy to the flesh (*“be killing it or it will be killing you”*)
5. vv. 25-26- in order to experience a change from the inside out, I must live/walk by the Spirit... but how / what does that mean?

**IV. A key passage:** John 15:4-5

**V. Implications and Applications...**

- I need to be aware of the war
- Call a spade a spade / a sin a sin / the flesh the flesh
- I need to admit my inability to self-produce fruit
- There is a huge difference between “moral reformation” and “spiritual transformation” (see next page)
- It is only when I am exposed to the gospel that I will begin to grow as a Christian, and manifest the genuine fruit of the Spirit.

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, [1] drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 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 walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.  
(ESV)

## Imitation Fruit & the Fruit of the Spirit

### “Moral Reformation” and “Spiritual Transformation” Compared and Contrasted

**T**HERE are two kinds of fruit—the *supernatural* kind produced by the Holy Spirit, and the *natural* kind produced by our vain attempts to imitate the Spirit’s work in our own strength. Paul wrote: “*Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?*” – Gal. 3:3 As you examine the left and right columns, try to discern what it is we must keep doing to manifest the fruit of the Spirit.

#### My Plastic Imitation ▼

#### The Real Banana ▼

<p><b>My “Love”</b> I love people—if they are <i>love-able</i>. People don’t feel loved by me. They feel used because my love is conditional.</p>	<p><b>God’s Love</b> I give away God’s unconditional love for me. By looking at Jesus, I can love the unlovely—even my enemies! (Mt. 5:44; Lk. 6:35)</p>
<p><b>My “Joy”</b> I am joyful—that is, I am happy with the people and circumstances in my life <i>if</i> everything goes according to my plans.</p>	<p><b>God’s Joy</b> When all else fails, I still have Jesus. I take delight in knowing and being known by the God who delights in me.</p>
<p><b>My “Peace”</b> I have peace—when there is no conflict. There is usually something troubling going on, so I complain a lot.</p>	<p><b>God’s Peace</b> I have “the peace that passes understanding” because I know that God is in control of the people and circumstances in my life.</p>
<p><b>My “Patience”</b> I am very patient—as long as people do exactly what I say! When they fail to obey/respect me, I lose my temper.</p>	<p><b>God’s Patience</b> Because God is patient (longsuffering) with me, the sinner, I can be patient with other sinners.</p>
<p><b>My “Kindness”</b> I act kind, but if you fail to repay me, watch out! “<i>Scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours.</i>” (Umbunu proverb, Angola)</p>	<p><b>God’s Kindness</b> Like God’s kindness to me, my kindness to others leads them to repentance. I give food and drink to my enemies. (Rom. 12:21)</p>
<p><b>My “Goodness”</b> I want to be <i>thought of</i> as a good person, and try to be good. But, this only works when others are good to me.</p>	<p><b>God’s Goodness</b> As I walk in daily fellowship with God who is good to me, the Spirit is empowering me to enjoy doing good to others.</p>
<p><b>My “Faithfulness”</b> I rely on my wisdom to “find God’s will”. Then, to avoid embarrassment, I try to do what I’ve promised in my own strength.</p>	<p><b>God’s Faithfulness</b> God does what he says and finishes what he starts. So, I follow Jesus—relying on the Spirit’s strength to do the same.</p>
<p><b>My “Gentleness”</b> I tend to be harsh with people who do not live up to my standards. I am gentle with people—<i>if</i> they submit to me.</p>	<p><b>God’s Gentleness</b> As I am blessed by God’s gentleness, the Holy Spirit is transforming me into a “gentleman” or “gentle-woman.”</p>
<p><b>My “Self-control”</b> I try to hide my negative emotions and reactions, and am shamed when my attempts at “sin-management” crumble.</p>	<p><b>God’s Self-control</b> As I look to Jesus, the Holy Spirit is taming the savage beast of my flesh. Faith is changing me—from the inside-out.</p>