

The Fruit Of The Spirit

Introduction

(Ga 5:16-25)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. New series on "The Fruit Of The Spirit."
 - a. We will be looking at each character of the fruit so as to make sure we each are producing this fruit.
3. Background to our series.
 - a. The book of Galatians was written between 48 & 55 A.D.
 - b. It was written to the churches of Galatia.
 - i. **Ga 1:2** "...To the churches of Galatia."¹
 - c. It was written because of the Judaizing teachers.
 - i. These were Jews that had become Christians but were teaching that all Christians had to keep the Old Law still.
 - d. Thus the thrust of the book is dealing with this teaching.
 - i. **Ga 1:6-8** "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed."
4. In Galatians the fifth chapter.
 - a. We find Paul teaching freedom in Christ.
 - i. **Ga 5:1** "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."
 - b. They were to be free from the yoke of slavery found in the Old Law such as circumcision.
 - i. **Ga 5:6** "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love."
 - c. They were to put away the leaven of unrighteous teaching that hindered their freedom in Christ asking them to hold to the flesh of sin looking back to the Old Law.
 - i. **Ga 5:7-10** "You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is."
 - d. It is with that thought that Paul writes this...
 - i. **Ga 5:13, 15** "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another...15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another."
5. Thus we find the import of why Paul wrote the need to walk by the Spirit and produce the Spirit's fruit.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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I. What Is The Fruit Of The Spirit

- A. I ask this not to belittle anyone's intelligence but as a reminder
 - 1. We must keep in mind this is all one fruit.
 - i. Many use the phrase "fruits of the Spirit."
 - a. This is not an accurate depiction of the fruit.
 - 2. There is one fruit with many characteristics.
- B. The fruit of the Spirit characteristics
 - 1. **Ga 5:22-23** "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."
 - i. Love
 - ii. Joy
 - iii. Peace
 - iv. Patience/Longsuffering
 - v. Kindness
 - vi. Goodness
 - vii. Faithfulness
 - viii. Gentleness/meekness
 - ix. Self-control/temperance

II. Why Study The Fruit Of The Spirit?

- A. So that we avoid the works of the flesh
 - 1. We are either walking in the Spirit or in the flesh.
 - 2. Thus we find constant reminders of this truth!!!
 - i. **Mt 12:30** "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."
 - ii. **Mt 6:24a** "No one can serve two masters..."
 - iii. **Mt 7:13-14** "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."
 - 3. Brethren we must walk in the Spirit to avoid the works of the flesh.
 - i. **Ga 5:16** "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."
- B. So that we may inherit the kingdom of God
 - 1. We can't do the works of the flesh and get to heaven.
 - i. **Ga 5:19-21** "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, 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."

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- ii. **I Co 6:9-10** "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."
- 2. We must do something to inherit the kingdom of God, we must bear fruit!!!
 - i. **Jn 15:1-8** " I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."
- C. So that we can support the unity of the church
 - 1. We have no unity if one group is walking in the flesh while the other is in the Spirit.
 - i. The two are incompatible.
 - 2. Therefore unity is found in walking with the Spirit.
 - i. Paul told the brethren in Corinth.
 - a. **I Co 1:10** "I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."
 - ii. Paul told the brethren what that single unifying mind was also
 - a. **I Co 2:10, 16** "these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God... 16 For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."
 - b. **Ph 2:5** "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (NKJV)
 - iii. Thus we find that all that walk in the Spirit and are producers of such, will be unified in the Spirit through the mind of God, His Word.
 - a. **II Ti 3:16-17** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

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CONCLUSION

1. Brethren there can be no doubt as to why it is so important to study this great topic of "The Fruit Of The Spirit."
 - a. Let each of us start now building upon each characteristic all the more and abound in the production of the fruit of the Spirit.
2. Question: Are you producing the fruit of the Spirit?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**