

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

WHAT LIFE IN CHRIST PRODUCES

“...walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth ;)”

~ Ephesians 5:8-9

1. Necessary Steps

- a. 2 Cor 12:18 - Walked we not in the same Spirit? Walked we not in the same steps?
- b. The fruit of the Spirit concerns our walk - Eph 5:8
- c. Walking in the Spirit is not merely a change of action, but a change in purpose
- d. Notice the order of growth here - Col 1:9-11

2. Bearing Fruit

- a. Fruit can be what is produced, or it can be the profit (fruit of our labour)
- b. Fruit of the Spirit is not fruit of the law or fruit of your flesh - Gal 5:2-5
- c. Without covenants we walk in the Spirit to bear the fruit of the Spirit
- d. The Spirit and flesh are contrary, reckon the flesh dead - Gal 5:16-17
- e. Good works without charity profits nothing - 1 Cor 13:3
- f. Spiritual life like farming (husbandry) - God gives the increase - 1 Cor 3:5-7
- g. The planting, watering, and keeping requires study, prayer, church, ministry
- h. A good minister nourishes with these things - 1 Tim 4:5-6

3. Fruit Inspection

- a. Not a list of commandments for grace believers, this is the fruit of the Spirit not you
- b. These are not foreign to the world; the flesh can produce imitations
- c. When from the flesh - these are ungodly, corrupt, uncharitable, temporal
- d. An underestimated fruit verse - Eph 5:8-11 - goodness, righteousness, truth
- e. Gal 5:22 - Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (NIV wrongly removes meekness, adds patience, kindness, faithfulness, self-control)
- f. The Spirit teaches the mystery of Christ - when God's will works in you, fruit will be ripe

4. Reaping a Harvest

- a. There is not good fruit from the flesh, sin, and the law - Rom 6:20-22, 7:5
- b. Your job is to sow, be careful what you sow - Gal 6:7-9
- c. With the mind of Christ, sow these things to your understanding - Phil 4:8
- d. The Spirit will work in you to bear fruit, unto the glory of God - Phil 1:11

Defining the Fruit

The fruit of the Spirit comes from walking in the Spirit, which requires you first have the Spirit, and know the leading of the Spirit (which is the will of God). The fruit of the Spirit is the product of God's word working effectually in you. Each fruit is a product of God, and not of your flesh or of the world (love of God, joy in the Lord, peace of God, longsuffering with God, etc.).

Galatians 5:22

1. Love - the passionate pleasure, affection, and desire for something
 - a. This is love of God, not men who love darkness (John 3:19), money, self, pleasure, sin
2. Joy - Glad, cheerful, delighted, and excited - Rejoice in the Lord - Phil 4:4
3. Peace - Quiet, harmony, undisturbed rest in stability
4. Longsuffering - Waiting through suffering; enduring (not just patience)
5. Gentleness - Not harsh, wild, rash, violent, crude; tender, compassionate, merciful
6. Goodness - Virtue, purity, uncorrupt, expedient, helpful, useful, favorable
7. Faith - belief in God's word - Rom 10:17; not a blind leap into the unknown
8. Meekness - Not provoked or irritable; humility, lowliness of heart, taking wrong; not weakness, but the strength of being unmoved through adversity
9. Temperance - Moderating lusts with contentment, focus, sobriety; balance; not being overpowered by anything

Ephesians 5:9

There is more to the fruit of the Spirit than just the nine listed in Galatians 5:22. Here are some others. It is evident by this list that the fruit of the Spirit comes from the word of God working effectually in us. Without sound doctrine, we do not produce sound fruit.

1. Goodness - in opposition to bad - Rom 3:13
2. Righteousness - in opposition to wrong - Rom 3:10
3. Truth - in opposition to error - Rom 3:4

Philippians 4:8

The fruit of the Spirit comes from being spiritually minded (Rom 8:6) which comes from right doctrine in our inner man. When we think on these things, and do the things we have learned, received, and heard from our apostle, then the God of peace shall be with us (Phil 4:9).

1. True
2. Honest
3. Just
4. Pure
5. Lovely
6. Good report
7. Virtue
8. Praise

A lesson on this verse: *Some Things to Think About*
<http://graceambassadors.com/life/some-things-to-think-about>