

Sunday, May 2, 2010—Grace Life School of Theology—Understanding Galatians and the Law—Galatians 5:22-23

Galatians 5:22-23

- *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*
- Notice how verse 22 begins with the word “but.” This places verse 22 in direct contrast with what he was just talking about in the previous verses.
- Second, notice the contrast between the “works of the flesh” in verse 19 and “the fruit of the spirit” here in verse 22.
- Works are things that we do. Fruit is borne. A tree doesn’t work; it is alive and bears fruit as a process of life. The believer has been made alive in Christ, and through the new life the Holy Spirit bears fruit.
- Notice that Paul does not say the “works” of the spirit. Here the Lord is showing the Christian another difference between the old and new nature. You worked for Hell before you were saved (Romans 6:23), but now God works in us as we yield to the Spirit’s control in our lives (Philippians 2:13), and thus the new life is characterized by Fruit, not works.
- Another distinction is between the plural “works” and the singular “fruit.” Works are isolated, disjointed activities, separate and distinct having no unity. Fruit is a unity, a whole.
- Love: comes from the Greek word *agape* which carries the idea of affection and benevolence. This is the same word translated charity in I Corinthians 13. Love is obviously listed first because of its place in the supreme order in I Corinthians 13:13. Love in the Bible is not primarily a feeling but a decision or choice.
 - Romans 5:8
 - John 17:26—relationship between God the Father and God the Son
 - I Corinthians 13:4-5—it is the opposite of many of the works of the flesh
- Joy: means cheerfulness or calm delight. This is no doubt referring to the Joy of the Holy Spirit (I Thess. 1:6). Joy occurs twenty-six times in Paul’s epistles.
 - Romans 5:2
 - I Peter 1:8
 - I John 1:4
 - Philippians 4:4
 - II Corinthians 7:4—joy should be the natural heart attitude for ever believer.
- Peace: conveys the idea of being in a state of tranquility and harmony where everything fits together without friction or discord. We cannot have the peace of God in our souls until we have peace with Him.

- Romans 5:1
 - Matthew 10:34
 - Romans 14:19
 - Ephesians 2:14-17
- Longsuffering: deals with forbearance with patience. This word means that we put up with exasperating people and conditions for a long time.
 - II Peter 3:9, 15
 - II Corinthians 6:6
 - Ephesians 4:2
 - II Timothy 4:2
- Gentleness: deals with kindness. The same Greek word is translated kindness in the following verses.
 - II Corinthians 6:6
 - Ephesians 2:7
 - Colossians 3:12—the presence of this fruit of the spirit in our lives will enable us to help meet the needs of others. It deals with more than just a kind attitude but of kindness actively being demonstrated toward others.
- Goodness: useful kindness.
 - Romans 15:14
 - Ephesians 5:9
 - II Thessalonians 1:11
- Faith: genuine faith in Christ will result in faithfulness to Christ.
 - Romans 3:3
 - Ephesians 3:12
 - Philemon 5
 - Romans 3:22, 26
 - Galatians 2:12
- Meekness: is not weakness. It means patient and mild, not inclined to anger or resentment.
 - II Corinthians 10:1—Paul uses the phrase “the spirit of meekness” nine times in his epistles.
 - II Timothy 2:25
 - Titus 3:2
- Temperance: means self control. It means to have power over ones appetites.
 - Acts 24:25
 - I Corinthians 7:9
 - I Corinthians 9:25

- Pastor Charles F. Baker in his commentary in Galatians identifies three triads within the Fruit of the Spirit.
 - Toward God: Love, Joy Peace
 - Toward Man: Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness
 - Toward the Difficulties of Life: Faith, Meekness, Temperance
- Paul ends verse 23 with by saying, “against such there is no law.” I can find no comparative passage to shed light on what it means. Therefore we must consider the context.
- Galatians 5:18—there is no law that can bring about the Fruit of the spirit because the spirit does not work according to the Law today during the dispensation of Grace.
- I Timothy 1:9—there is no law that can accomplish the fruit of the Spirit and no law against the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:24

- *“And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”*
- This crucifixion is self-inflicted
- Galatians 2:20—this crucifixion was done by God Himself when the believer placed saving faith in Jesus Christ.
- What we have in Galatians 5:24 is the believer applying the truth of Romans 6:4-8 to his or her present wrestling with the flesh. Those who have done this are not seeking their own affections and lusts any longer.

Galatians 5:25-26

- *“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26) Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”*
- Geographically the believer is still in the flesh (II Corinthians 10:3), but is no longer spiritually tied to it.
- Therefore we really live (Romans 8:9-10) in the Spirit. If this is so then let us walk in the Spirit.
- Which list are we functioning in the majority of the time?
- Philippians 2:3