

Sunday, January 28, 2024—Galatians 5:22 The Fruit Of The Spirit, Part 1 (Love)

Galatians 5:22

- **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 is between the “works of the flesh” in verses 19-21 and “the fruit of the Spirit” here in verses 22-23.
- “Works” are things that we do. Fruit is born. A tree does not 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.
 - Matthew 3:8, 10; 7:16-20; 21:19, 34, 41-43—people today misuse these verses and apply them to the body of Christ living in the dispensation of grace.
- Notice that Paul does not say the “works” of the spirit. Here, the Lord is showing the Christian another difference between the old man and the new creature. You worked for Hell before you were saved (Romans 2:5; 4:4; 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.
 - Romans 6:21-22
 - Ephesians 5:9
- 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.
- **Is**—is a verb. It is the present tense and the indicative mood. As a matter of fact (indicative), God the Holy Spirit is seeking to manifest fruit in you at this present time.
 - Romans 8:26
 - II Corinthians 4:16
 - Romans 8:31—God the Holy Spirit is constantly seeking to manifest his life in and through believers.
- **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.
- Much is said by defenders of the King James Bible about the difference between “love” and “charity.” I have already taught extensively on this matter in other places. Interested parties are encouraged to seek out the following resources.
 - [I Corinthians 13:1 Love or Charity? Which Is It?](#) (11/26/17)
 - [I Corinthians 13:1 Charity or Love? Which Is It? Part 2](#) (12/3/17)
 - [Charity & Love: Is There A Difference?](#) (6/24/21)
- For now, consider the table demonstrating that “charity” and “love” are used interchangeably and accomplish the same things.

Charity	Love
1Pe 4:8 KJV - And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.	Pro 10:12 KJV - Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.
1Co 13:13 KJV - And now abideth faith, hope, charity , these three; but the greatest of these [is] charity.	1Th 1:3 KJV - Remembering without ceasing your work of faith , and labour of love , and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;
Tit 2:2 KJV - That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. 2Ti 3:10 KJV - But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,	1Ti 6:11 KJV - But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
2Ti 2:22 KJV - Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.	1Ti 6:11 KJV - But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
2Th 1:3 KJV - We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;	1Th 3:12 KJV - And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all [men], even as we [do] toward you:
1Ti 1:5 KJV - Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and [of] a good conscience, and [of] faith unfeigned:	1Pe 1:22 KJV - Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that ye] love one another with a pure heart fervently:

- Galatians 5:13—the capacity for serving one another by love is brought about by the fruit of the Spirit as we yield to the Spirit and the truth of God’s word in our lives.