

Sunday, February 4, 2024—Galatians 5:22 The Fruit Of The Spirit, Part 2 (Love Continued)

Introduction

- Last week we began looking at “the fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5:22-23. In doing so, we made some introductory comments contrasting the “works of the flesh” (Gal. 5:19-21) with the “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22-23)
- **But**—places “the fruit of the Spirit” in verses 22 & 23 in direct contrast with the “works of the flesh” in verses 19-21.
- **Fruit**—is as an expression of indwelling life. In contrast, “works” are things that we do. 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 impartation of new spiritual 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 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
- **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.
- **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.
 - John 17:26—relationship between God the Father and God the Son.

Galatians 2:22

- **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**
- Galatians 5:13—Paul address one of the common objections of legalistic people, “tell people they are under grace, and they will use it as a license to sin.” Our liberty under grace has not been given to us for the purposes of indulging the flesh.
 - Galatians 5:16-21—liberty was not given to believers for us to engaged in the willful indulgence of the flesh.

- Galatians 6:8
- Galatians 5:13—note the contrast “but” that sets the last phrase of verse 13 apart from the previous one. Our liberty was not given to us to serve ourselves but to serve others. Instead of being consumed with the legality or permissiveness of a given action under grace we are free to consider how our actions affect and impact others.
- **By love**—is the operative force in verse. We serve each by “by love.” Our natural programming however is to serve ourselves and our own interests. How can we learn to serve others by love?
 - I Thessalonians 4:9-10—if we allow him, to God almighty will teach us how to love one another.
 - Romans 5:5-8; 12:9; 13:10
 - Ephesians 5:2
 - Philippians 1:9; 2:5-8—what we are really taking about here once again is the mind of Christ. This a love that values and esteems others as greater than oneself.
 - I Corinthians 14:1—“charity” is the more excellent way from I Cor. 12:31. Believers are to be following “charity” in our relationships with each other.
 - I Corinthians 16:14—all our things are to be done with charity.
 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7—what love/charity looks like amongst believers:
 - **suffereth long**—patiently endures with people & circumstances
 - **is kind**—acts benevolently, makes oneself useful to others
 - **envieth not**—is not jealous or envious of what others have
 - **vaunteth not itself**—does not brag and know better all the time
 - **not puffed up**—is not proud & full of self
 - **Doth not behave itself unseemly**—unbecoming, inappropriate
 - **seeketh not her own**—not about me, myself and I (the selfish trinity)
 - **not easily provoked**—is not excite mind to angry action
 - **thinketh no evil**—that which is bad and/or harmful for another

- **Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth**—does not rejoice in unrighteousness
 - **Beareth all things**—covers the faults of others not to expose them
 - **believeth all things**—gives others the benefit of the doubt
 - **hopeth all things**—expects and trusts in the best for others
 - **endureth all things**—bears up under the pressure of others
- Galatians 5:13—Paul wanted the Galatians to be motivated by love to serve each other.
 - Motivator—love
 - Action—service
 - Target—one another
 - Ephesians 4:16
 - Galatians 5:22—“love” as a fruit of the Spirit is other regarding. It places others above oneself. It values and esteems the things God values and esteems. This kind of love is not produced in us through our own works or effort but rather as a manifestation of the life of Christ in us.
 - II Corinthians 4:10-11
 - Galatians 2:20