

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: The Traits of Godly Relationships

Galatians 5:22-23

The Fruit of the Spirit is the manifest evidence that one is devoted to a life in which the Spirit of God is living and reigning. These traits are a pure reflection of the Character of Jesus Christ and results from a deep abiding relationship grounded in study and obedience. Read John 15

In Galatians 5, Apostle Paul meticulously outlines the Influence of the Holy Spirit as having inward and outward impact on those who have confess Jesus Christ and now seeks to live faithfully. It is clear that Paul understands:

1. Christianity is relational. Genesis 2:18; Proverbs 18:24; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Thessalonians 5:11
2. Christianity is about Character. Matthews 4:1-10; Ephesians 4:1-3
3. Christianity contradicts the world and all its sinful tendencies. Romans 12:2
4. Christianity requires intense inner effort. Ezekiel 36:26; Ephesians 4:22-24
5. Christianity is lived outward. Matthew 5:15-17

“Though we cannot see the heart, we can see the life.”

- David Paul Kirkpatrick

How is the Fruit of the Spirit developed within us?

1. A commitment to personal Sanctification. 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Timothy 2:21
2. A consistent devotional life grounded in humility. Psalms 1:1-3; Luke 18:1ff; Acts 16:25

“The fruit of the Spirit is fundamentally relational. Rather than originating with us, it flows to us from our union with Christ, and it flows beyond us to bring us into fellowship with others. The secret of this flow and our unity with God and others is HUMILITY!”

- Jerry Bridges
3. A passion to live within community with others. Acts 2:42-47.
 4. A daily confession that yields a life submitted to the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:1-17

Love (agape). “Love” is one of the most frequently used words in Paul’s vocabulary, the noun *agape* occurring seventy-five times, and the verb *agape*, “to show love,” thirty-four times in his writings. It is significant that love heads the list of these nine graces of the Christian life. Paul might well have placed a period after love and moved on into the conclusion of his letter, for love is FOUNDATIONAL TO DISCIPLESHIP! 1 Corinthians 16:14; 1 Peter 4:8; 1 John 4:19

3 Things to Note

1. Love is central to all the other aspects or traits of the FOS.
2. Love ensures that the Spirit of God freely flows among the community of believers.
3. Love combats demonic activity among us.

Read 1 Corinthians 13.

Note Love is

- A. Visible
- B. Active
- C. Result oriented.