

# 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.

### JOY

The experience of deliverance and the anticipation of salvation provides the most significant foundation for understanding JOY in the OT and NT. The coming of the Messiah, who delivers his people and brings salvation becomes the basis for rejoicing in the NT. The response of joy, gladness, or happiness is not only a deep inward feeling, but is expressed in celebration when God's people gather. Numbers 10:10; Luke 2:10

Note 3 important things regarding JOY:

1. It is God who does something to miraculous and amazing, Exodus 14
2. It is the response of rejoicing that results when one recognizes it is the work of God. Luke 15:7, 11
3. It fuels the faith of those who recognize what God is doing. Acts 8

In the OT, JOY resulted from

- A. Divine acts associated with salvation
- B. Feasts and festivals that celebrated God's redemptive work.

Recalling God's marvelous act of delivering Israel from bondage, the Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread were occasions of great joy (2 Chr 30:21–27; Ezra 6:22; cf. also Psalms 95 and 98)

### PEACE

This word for PEACE has a couple of meanings.

1. To join or tie together into a whole. All the parts fit together to insure full functionality  
Example: Body of Christ imagery in 1 Corinthians 12

2. Harmony. This refers to the combination of simultaneous musical notes in a chord. This also means existing in *healthy accord* with one's neighbor
3. Internal calm which manifests itself in a state of TRANQUILITY

What are the benefits to living in PEACE with others?

In the NT kindness is translated from the Greek word *chrestotes*. This word can describe gentleness, goodness, uprightness, generosity, and graciousness. The NT describes kindness as an attribute of God (Titus 3:4; HCSB, love). Kindness is a characteristic of true love (1 Cor. 13:4).<sup>1</sup> Psalms 4:8, 131; Philippians 4:6-8

To live in PEACE with others you must be PEACEFUL

- A. Conflict tends not to damage relationships  
How? Romans 14:17-19; 2 Corinthians 13:11  
2 keys
  1. Intentional biblical tolerance
  2. Consistent communication that reflects the character of Jesus Christ
- B. Creates the conditions for the work of God to be accomplished.
  1. Selflessness is a predominate trait
  2. The collective goal is important to all
  3. Order is organically guided by the HOLY SPIRIT
 Read Acts 2:43-47, 4:32-37

Kindness

(Matt. 5:7; Acts 20:35; Rom. 15:2-5; Eph. 4:32; 1 Pet. 3:8; 4:8; 1 John 3:17)

Throughout the OT the idea of *chesed* is that of compassion and faithfulness to one's obligations as well as to relatives, friends, and even to slaves (Gen. 21:23; 39:21; 1 Sam. 15:6).

God's kindness is intended to lead to repentance, not to rejection. (Rom. 2:4)

Story of Joseph (Genesis 50:18-21)

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Note 2 things

1. Kindness makes us serve those who are weak and flawed. (Luke 10:25-37)
2. Kindness is a reflection of God's organic desire of God loves
3. Kindness extends grace but does not deny the sin. (John 8:1-11)

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This results from

- A. Compassion
- B. Generosity
- C. Sensitivity
- D. Alligience