

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians



Sunday, January 21, 2018 Pastor Tom Gang

Today's text is an eye-opener containing a familiar yet often misunderstood set of virtues. The legalizers attacking the Galatian churches could boast that they were _____ evildoers but, was it obvious to see the _____ of God manifest in their daily lives? While it is possible to overcome the flesh and not do evil works, it is something altogether different to do good things by the power of the Holy Spirit. Avoiding iniquity by following a list of don'ts is not enough; if you want to be pleasing to God, there must also be evidence of righteous character qualities. Human works can sometimes _____ certain aspects of the Spirit's fruit, but the flesh can never _____ the fruit of the Spirit. This morning we must trust the Lord to show us these most important products of our Christian life.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - GALATIANS 5:22-26

1. The difference between works and fruit - Galatians 5:19a, 22-23

a. Works

- Works of the flesh - verses 19-21
- Good works for _____ reasons - Galatians 3:1-3

b. Fruit - verses 22-23

- The fruit of the Spirit - verses 22-23

Not the works of the Spirit, but the _____ of the Spirit. When we were lost, we worked for self and the devil. Now as believers, God works in us to make us more like Christ. The fruit is not spiritual gifts that have to do with service, but rather character qualities produced as a result of God's grace controlling our life. There is a nine-fold fruit of the Spirit listed in verses 22-23.

2. The fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23

a. Godward fruit - verse 22a

- Love - Also referred to as _____. True love gives without expecting anything in return - 1 Cor. 13:1-13
- Joy - Different from happiness, because joy is not dependent upon favorable circumstances in life. Joy is a deep inward rejoicing knowing God is in control and one day we will be with him - Jude 1:24
- Peace - Living in harmony with others and God thru Christ. The ability to be calm and level-headed in times of distress. The absence of war, chaos and turmoil - Is. 53:5; Phil. 4:7

b. Outward fruit – verse 22b

- Longsuffering – Patience and endurance thru aggravation, suffering or difficulty; the absence of _____ – 1Ti. 1:16
- Gentleness – Kind-hearted, tender, being moderate in force or degree so that the effects are not severe – 1 Thess. 2:7
- Goodness – Demonstrating graciousness to others, righteousness exemplified by outward acts – Ro. 15:14

c. Inward fruit – verse 22c-23

- Faith – The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen; it gives every believer the ability to please God, and it comes from hearing and _____ what God says – Ro. 10:17; Heb. 11:1, 6
- Meekness – Not weakness but rather power under control; a demonstration of submission – 2 Ti. 2:25; James 3:13
- Temperance – A strong self-control, resisting evil or harmful things, _____ with passions and emotions – 2 Peter 1:6

3. How to grow the fruit – Galatians 5:24-26

a. Crucify the flesh – verse 24

- With the affections and lusts – Two desires that fuel the coveting of things that are hurtful to our life and obstruct our _____ relationship with God.

b. Walk in the Spirit – verse 25

- To live every single day in a close relationship with God in prayer, believing what the Bible says especially when it goes against what we think we should do, or what we would rather do – Ro. 8:26; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Thess. 2:13

c. Be not desirous of vain glory – verse 26

- It provokes one another
- It causes us to _____ each other

4. The practical conclusion

- The lost world around us is _____ for God, but does not know it. When we manifest the fruit of the Spirit we become a living example of God's grace, giving us safety and drawing the world to Christ. The flesh may manufacture results that bring praise to us, but the fruit of the Spirit brings _____ to God.