

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 8-21-11 PM Notes
"THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT" (PART 1)
GALATIANS 5:22-23
#6 in Series, "The Forgotten Member of the Trinity"

Romans 8:28-29 (NKJV) ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."

"The use of the singular number emphasizes the unity and coherence of life in the Spirit, in contrast with the disorder and instability of the life dominated by the flesh. The fruit is not conceived of as so many separated graces, but as all springing from the same root, and constituting an organic whole which is the creation of the Holy Spirit." —J. Oswald Sanders

I. The Source of Fruit

II. The Specifics of the Fruit

A. Love (v. 22a)

1 John 3:14 (NKJV) "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death."

1 John 4:7 (NKJV) "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

Matthew 22:36-39 (NKJV) ³⁶ 'Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?' ³⁷ Jesus said to him, '*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*' ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second is like it: '*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*'"

John 13:35 (NKJV) "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

1. Love Described

1 Corinthians 13:4a (NKJV) "Love suffers long..."

1 Corinthians 13:5b (NKJV) "...does not seek its own..."

1 Corinthians 13:7 (NKJV) "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

2. Love Deployed

1 John 3:16 (NKJV) "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren."

1 John 3:17 (NKJV) "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

*Love of God, eternal love, shed thy love through me!
Nothing less than Calvary's love, would I ask of Thee.
Fill me, flood me, overflow me,
Love of God, eternal love, shed Thy love through me.*
—Amy Carmichael

B. Joy (v. 22b)

Isaiah 61:3a (NKJV) “To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...”

1. Joy Described

1 Peter 1:8 (NKJV) “whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.”

John 15:11 (NKJV) “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.”

Romans 8:18 (NKJV) “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

2. Joy Deployed

Romans 5:2 (NKJV) “through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Proverbs 10:28a (ESV) “The hope of the righteous brings joy...”

Romans 12:12a (NKJV) “rejoicing in hope...”

Romans 15:13a (NKJV) “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy...”

C. Peace (v. 22c)

1. Peace with God

Romans 5:1 (NKJV) “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2. Personal Peace

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV) “⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

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#6 in Series, “The Forgotten Member of the Trinity”

Review: “God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity”, “The Holy Spirit and Salvation”, “The Baptism by the Holy Spirit”, “The Filling of the Holy Spirit”, Walking in the Holy Spirit”

One of the things we teach often is that God uses all that those who know Christ experience to conform us to the image of Christ. **Romans 8:28-29a (NKJV)** “²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son...” Here is a very practical question. How do we know if we are progressively being conformed to the likeness of Christ? What would a person’s life look like if they were conformed to image of God’s dear Son? Let me give you some words that I believe make a word picture of Jesus. If I had to describe Jesus, I would use these words: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. What I just gave you is of course the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is a portrait of Jesus.

It is interesting that Christians tend to focus much more on the gifts of the Spirit than they do the fruit of the Spirit. There is so much emphasis (sometimes an unhealthy emphasis) on spiritual gifts that the Spirit’s fruit is often neglected. It is the fruit of the Spirit, however, that makes the gifts of the Spirit effective. The gift that the Holy Spirit has given you is not always immediately obvious. The fruit of the Spirit is always obvious (as is the lack of the fruit of the Spirit). If the Holy Spirit is filling your life, anyone who is around you for any length of time at all will see the fruit; it becomes obvious.

Before we get into the study of the individual characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit, let me point out a contrast between the fruit of the Spirit and the works of the flesh. First, there is a contrast of plural and singular. The Bible speaks of the “works” of the flesh and the “fruit” of the Spirit. “Works” is plural because the flesh manifests itself in many different ways. Some people don’t struggle with “sorcery” (V20) which has to do with mind and mood altering drugs. Some struggle almost constantly with drugs. Some don’t have a problem with outbursts of wrath (V20), but for others, it is a constant battle. As we saw last week, there are many different versions of the flesh, so there will be many works of the flesh the flesh we will struggle with and many that we won’t. The fruit of the Spirit however is singular. There are not nine fruits of the Spirit; there is one fruit with nine characteristics. While the characteristics of the one fruit of the Spirit have many levels of maturity, they are all present to some degree in the life of a Spirit filled believer. Second, there is the contrast between death and life. Works are dead; fruit is alive. The flesh produces dead works; the Spirit produces living fruit. Third, there is the contrast between acts and attitude. The works of the flesh are primarily things that we do, but the fruit of the Spirit is primarily attitudes or approaches to life, needs, conflicts, or trials. Last week we went over the works of the flesh, and those 17 representative works (acts) form a black velvet backdrop that cause the fruit to shine forth as a diamond. J. Oswald Sanders summarized this contrast: “The use of the singular number emphasizes the unity and coherence of life in the Spirit, in contrast with the disorder and instability of the life dominated by the flesh. The fruit is not conceived of as so many separated graces, but as all springing from the same root, and constituting an organic whole which is the creation of the Holy Spirit” [J. Oswald Sanders, “The Holy Spirit and His Gifts”, Page 147].

Let’s examine this fruit of the Spirit.

I. The Source of the Fruit

This is a short point, but very important. What we have presented to us here in Galatians 5:22-23 is not the fruit of man; it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. You cannot work up these nine qualities. There are certainly man generated substitutes for these qualities of the fruit of the Spirit. Human generated joy

doesn't last. Human generated peace is nothing more than optimistic, positive thinking and it falls apart under trial. Man generated self-control turns into legalism. While each of these qualities is commanded elsewhere in Scripture, it is clear that they can only be produced by the Holy Spirit. Don't ever be guilty of trying to produce love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness or self-control in your own strength.

Let me also point out that these nine qualities need to be matured and "ripened" in the life of the Christian. As we mature, the fruit will be more and more evident. In other words, the fruit isn't static but dynamic. There is a continual maturing of the fruit of the Spirit. Even a new Christian who is surrendered to and filled with the Holy Spirit will manifest to some extent the nine qualities of the fruit of the Spirit.

II. The Specifics of the Fruit

In this message we are going to look at the first three qualities of the fruit of the Spirit.

A. Love (V22a)

There are some reputable bible scholars who teach that love is the one fruit of the Spirit and the other 8 qualities are simply ways that love is manifested. I tend to think the nine qualities stand alone, that is, they are broader than just the manifestations of love, but love is the most important of the nine qualities of the Spirit. Love is the clearest evidence that we truly are Christians. **1 John 3:14 (NKJV)** "We know that we have passed from death to life [salvation], because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death [is unsaved]." **1 John 4:7 (NKJV)** "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God [only those who are rightly related to God can love with this kind of love]; and everyone who loves [practices love] is born of God and knows God". Love is the primary commandment in the Scriptures. A lawyer came to Jesus with a question in **Matthew 22:36-39 (NKJV)** "³⁶ Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*" ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second is like it: '*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*'" Jesus gave us the way that others would know that we are His disciples in **John 13:35 (NKJV)** "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love** for one another."

1. Love Described

It is important to understand how important love is, but it is also important to understand what this love, this fruit of the Spirit really is. With love (as with a lot of other Biblical words) we tend to take the world's definition of love and apply that definition to Biblical love. That won't work. We must find out how the original hearers would have understood love. In our culture, love is a feeling that comes on you. You can't help it if you have it or if you don't have it. The songs of my younger days in the 1960's reflected this understanding of love as being a feeling that just comes on you. For instance here is a good one Ann Murray sang, "Can't Help Falling in Love with You".

*Wise men say, only fools rush in,
But I can't help falling in love with you.
I can't help falling in love with you
Shall I stay, would it be a sin,
If I can't help falling in love with you.*

The problem with this view of love is that just as fast as you "fall" in love, you can "fall" out of love.

*You've lost that lovin' feeling,
Whoa, that lovin' feeling,
You've lost that lovin' feeling,*

Now it's gone...gone...gone...wooooooh. (Recorded by the Righteous Brothers)

In the New Testament, when it speaks of this "God kind" of love (agape), it is usually accompanied by affection, but it isn't initiated by affection ("that loving feeling"). We love because we are commanded to love and because the Holy Spirit enables and impels us to love. This God kind of love is giving up our rights to seek the highest good of another regardless of their response. Keep in mind that this God kind of love is supernatural. Only the Holy Spirit can produce this kind of love. The natural way is not to give up

our rights to seek the highest good of another. The natural way is to fight for our rights. We have organizations and movements to promote almost every kind of right imaginable! We have women's rights, children's rights, gay rights, prisoner's rights, unions to demand workers rights, etc, etc. When someone violates our rights, we desire to get even – through a lawsuit, fists or a gun. Biblical love involves laying aside our rights and seeking the highest good of another – even if that person is our enemy. That is not natural and apart from the enabling of the Holy Spirit, we cannot do it.

When we look at the chapter in the Bible that describes love – 1 Corinthians 13 – we see instance after instance of giving up our rights to seek the highest good of another. Listen to just a few verses with very little comment. **1 Corinthians 13:4a (NKJV)** “Love suffers long...” **1 Corinthians 13:5b (NKJV)** “...does not seek its own...” **1 Corinthians 13:7 (NKJV)** “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

2. Love Deployed

This kind of love is not worked up, it is worked out! It is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us loving through us. This kind of love is not fallen into, it is the Holy Spirit's response to our purposed heart, our choice to love others and then to look to Him for the enabling.

I have focused on loving others, but we need the Holy Spirit to love the Lord our God. To love God is to treasure Him, to count Him as precious and more valuable than all else. The Holy Spirit turns the light on the person of the Father and in the Holy Spirit's spotlight, we see Him in all His glory and majesty and beauty and we love Him. The fruit of the Spirit is love! He produces and enables love for others – even our enemies, and He makes the Lord so real and precious to us so that we love Him with all our heart, all our soul, and all of our mind.

Let me summarize this love that the Holy Spirit deploys from our heart with two phrases. First, this **love gives**. **1 John 3:16 (NKJV)** “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.” Love gives and gives and keeps on giving. It gives when the response is rejection of our love. Nothing can stop this kind of love. It gives materially. **1 John 3:17 (NKJV)** “But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?” It gives non-materially. It gives time, agonizing prayer, and counsel. This love is so costly that it is easier to just avoid those who need loving, but the Holy Spirit won't let us and so we love and then love some more! Second, **love forgives**. Perhaps this is the most difficult manifestation of love from one person to another. Love refuses to hold bitterness and grudges. Love gives up our perceived right to justice (that we administer) and turns justice over to God while we wipe the slate clean.

Though she doesn't use the holy Spirit's name, it is the Holy Spirit that Amy Carmichael the missionary to India is speaking of in this poem:

*Love of God, eternal love, shed thy love through me!
Nothing less than Calvary's love, would I ask of Thee.
Fill me, flood me, overflow me,
Love of God, eternal love, shed Thy love through me.*

- Amy Carmichael

Do you desire this fruit of love to characterize your life? I do. I have so far to go, but I want it. The Holy Spirit must produce it, but we must choose it and desire it. It was said of the South African Dutch Reformed Pastor, Andrew Murray that he read the love chapter (1 Corinthians 13) on his knees every day. The fruit of the Spirit is love.

B. Joy

Adrian Rogers used to say that a joyless Christian is an oxymoron. If we know Jesus Christ we have no excuse to be joyless. When Isaiah prophesied of the coming Messiah, he said in **Isaiah 61:3a (NKJV)** “To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the **oil of joy** for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...”

1. Joy Described

It is really hard to define or even describe joy. Peter said in **1 Peter 1:8 (NKJV)** “whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory”. The joy of knowing Jesus Peter says is inexpressible. Perhaps it might help if we contrasted joy and happiness. Most people are searching for happiness when the deepest need of their heart is joy. Jesus, on the night before He was crucified, longed for His disciples to have joy. **John 15:11 (NKJV)** “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.” This supernatural Spirit produced joy is a sanctified optimism that looks beyond the momentary circumstances and sees the final chapter. Joy is so much better than fleeting fickle happiness.

> Happiness is external (it depends on what happens); joy is internal and thus independent of outward circumstances.

> Happiness has at its source circumstances; joy has as its source the Holy Spirit.

> Happiness is vulnerable and insecure because it can be taken away at any time; joy is secure because its source is the Spirit of Christ and it is not tied to circumstances or the decisions of others or physical illness. You can have joy in a bad marriage; you can have joy while you have cancer; you can have joy when you have been disappointed and are enduring painful circumstances. How? Because you know the truth of **Romans 8:18 (NKJV)** “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” You know the last chapter and **YOU WIN!** The only thing that can steal your joy is the sin of grieving or quenching the Holy Spirit so that He is no longer filling your life and producing this fruit of joy.

2. Joy Deployed

How does this joy get worked out into our everyday life? Joy is often tied in to hope in the Bible. Hope is not a wish; it is the confident expectation that what God has promised, He is going to accomplish. **Romans 5:2 (NKJV)** “through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” **Proverbs 10:28a (ESV)** “The hope of the righteous brings joy...” **Romans 12:12a (NKJV)** “rejoicing in hope...” **Romans 15:13a (NKJV)** “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy...” Since joy looks beyond present circumstances to the God controlled future, you can see how it is tied in to how well we know what God has promised for the future.

As we in every circumstance set our eyes on God’s plan and promises for the future, the Holy Spirit produces joy in us in spite of our present circumstances.

C. Peace

The Greek word for peace literally means to bind together. We may say about someone, “He’s got it all together”. That’s what peace is. Peace is having it all together when all around us is falling apart. There are at least two kinds of peace:

1. Peace with God

Romans 5:1 (NKJV) “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”. This is the root of all peace. It is when we realize that we were alienated, separated and estranged from God, but because of Christ Jesus and His substitutionary atonement we can be reconciled to Him. When we come to Him by grace alone through faith alone through Christ and His atonement alone, we are declared righteous, accepted by God and we are no longer separated, estranged or alienated from God. We are at peace with Him. The enmity is gone; the judgment has been taken; there is reconciliation and the result is peace with God.

2. Personal Peace

While we can never lose peace with God, we can lose personal peace through primarily being anxious as we face unknown or difficult circumstances. On our journey to heaven, we run into some horrendous circumstances. These circumstances can rob us of our peace if we focus on them instead of God and His sovereignty. That is why we are told in **Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)** “⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” This is the anti-venom for the bite of worry. When we refuse to focus on the troubles and choose to focus on God through believing prayer accompanied with faith (manifested by thanksgiving for what

we are requesting before we have it), we experience the return of personal peace – peace that passes understanding. Only the Holy Spirit can give this peace.

CONCLUSION

What a wonderful thing God has given us here on this fallen planet and its alien values to the child of God. He has given us His Spirit to indwell us. As He is allowed to reside alone in the control center of our life, He gives us the supernatural fruit of love, joy, and peace. Hallelujah! (3164)