

The Fruit of the Spirit!

Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:1-8

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- "What fruit is in season?"
- All of us bear fruit—either good or bad
- "The proof of the root is in the fruit!"

The Fruit of the Spirit!

A. General Observations:

1. The "*fruit of the Spirit*" involves our character, which in turn, determines our conduct.
 - a. "Fruit" refers to the development of Christian character—Christlikeness.
 - b. Christian character results in Christian conduct.
2. The "*fruit of the Spirit*" is singular, signifying that the Christian life is unified.
3. The "*fruit of the Spirit*" can be divided into three categories.
 - a. Habits of mind: *love, joy, and peace*
 - b. Reaching out to others: *longsuffering, kindness, goodness*
 - c. General conduct: *faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*

B. Dynamics of Fruit Producing—John 15:1-8

1. **The Dynamic of Mutual Abiding—John 15:4-5, 7**
 - a. We "abide in Christ"—on-going, active dependence on Christ.
 - b. Christ "abides in us" through the indwelling Spirit of God
 - c. This means....
 - 1) Jesus Christ lives his life in and through me.—Galatians 2:20
 - 2) I cannot manufacture the "fruit of the Spirit". John 15:4-5
2. **The Dynamic of Character Reproduction. The Means Christ uses to shape our character**
 - a. **Through His Word—John 15:7**
 - 1) The indwelling Spirit of God ministers to our inward man with the internalized Word of Christ with the result that we respond by faith in loving obedience to His commands.
 - 2) The transformation process—2 Corinthians 3:18
 - 3) Fruit-bearing results—Psalm 1:1-3
 - b. **Through Prayer—John 15:7**
 - 1) In prayer we express our dependence on God.
 - 2) Three conditions for effective prayer.
 - a) Must be offered in Jesus' Name—John 14, 1 John 5
 - b) Must be "*abiding in Christ*"—fellowship—Psalm 66
 - c) Must be in line with God's Word—Psalm 37:4
 - c. **Through Discipline—John 15:2-3**
 - 1) "*Every branch in Me, not bearing fruit, He 'takes away'*"—literally "*lifts up*"
 - 2) "*Every branch in Me that bears fruit, He prunes*"
 - a) Disciplines as sons—Hebrews 12:5-7
 - b) Produces the "*peaceable fruit of righteousness*"—Hebrews 12:11