

The Fruit of the Spirit

Read

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Love (agape)

1. Agape-type love is not natural to mankind, it can only be done supernaturally

Mat 5:43-44 *"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,"*

2. It has an impact in the area where we live and work

Mat 22:39 *And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*

3. Only ID badge for a Christian

John 13:34-35 *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, that you have love one for another."*

Joy (chara - 'calmness', 'delight')

1. Our joy is transient, but with Jesus it should be permanent

John 16:20,22 *I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. 22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.*

2. Whatever joy we experience, it can never be complete without Jesus

John 15:10-11 *If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

Peace (eirene - 'rest', 'quietness', by implication 'prosperity')

1. Real peace only comes from a relationship with Jesus

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

2. This peace is an act of our will, but it has a spiritual impact

Luke 10:5-6 *"When you enter a house, first say, ' Peace to this house.6 If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you.*

Patience (makrothumia - 'long-suffering', 'restraint')

1. It teaches us that our 'instant' world does not have real answers

Mat 18:26 *"The servant fell on his knees before him. ' Be patient with me,' he begged, ' and I will pay back everything.'*

Wait! It will happen, just not in our time-scale ... we so often miss God's goodness, because we're not prepared to set aside time!

2. Divorce and intolerance soar in our world, with devastating effects

1 Cor 13:4 *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

Kindness (chrestotes - 'excellence in character')

1. It finds expression in all people, for all mankind is made in the image of God

Acts 28:2 *The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold.*

2. It is demonstrated by the Father, himself

Eph 2:7 *in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

3. God demands it from Christians to all peoples

Col 3:12 *Therefore, as God' s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

Goodness (agathosune - 'integrity', 'generosity')

1. It is God's very nature

2 Pet 1:3 *His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*

2. It should also be our supernatural character

Rom 15:14 *I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.*

3. It helps us to be complete Christians, by rounding our total character

2 Pet 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

Faithfulness (pistis - *literally* 'full of': 'faith', 'assurance', 'conviction')

1. The character that God always shows to us, even if we 'slip'

Rom 3:3 What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God' s faithfulness?

2. We don't leave a bad witness with a list of unfinished works – both in individual lives, or by the Church

3 John 1:3 It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth.

Gentleness (praiotes - 'humility', 'meekness' i.e. 'strength under control not weak')

1. It must be shown in our lives

Phil 4:5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

2. It's a choice, and act of our will

Col 3:12 Therefore, as God' s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

3. It's the Lord's command to choose it!

1 Tim 6:11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

Self-control (egkrateia - 'control', 'restraint', 'modesty')

1. It can taught & learned

Acts 24:25 As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgement to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That' s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you."

Titus 2:6 6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.

2. We cannot effectively serve the Lord without it

1 Pet 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

3. It's needed for effective prayer

1 Pet 4:7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.

4. It provides protection against the work of Satan in our lives, and in the life of our Church

1 Pet 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.