

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

GAL. 5:22-23

Intro.

Fruit “of” Spirit not fruit of us. Not a spiritual smorgasbord. Fruit is singular not plural as Eph. 5:9

Love -	1st. & greatest of all Christian virtues.
Nature of God-	I Jn. 4:8 essence of Christ commands, I Jn. 3:23; 4:7-11; 19-21
<i>Eros-</i>	Passionate sex. Love.
<i>Storge-</i>	Family love & devotion.
<i>Phila-</i>	Friendship & affection.
<i>Agape-</i>	Care & concern.

<i>Eros</i> says:	I love “only” if you make me happy.
<i>Phila</i> says:	I love because you are so lovable.
<i>Storge</i> says:	I love out of obligation. Parental.
<i>Agape</i> says:	Whether you make me happy or whether we are related Or whether you are always lovable, I love you anyway.

**** never sees anything but the best even for those who seek the worst for us.

JOY - At Bethlehem “good news of Christ Joy which shall be for all the people” at the end when the risen Lord appeared. Lk. 24:41 “Disbelieved for joy” Could not believe it for sheer joy.
Joy is a happiness that is spontaneous, radiant & most of all clean.
Real joy is not prompted by happy circumstances, but triumphs over any circumstance.
“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!” Phil. 4:4

PEACE- Absence of alienations, state of reconciliation & oneness.
Greek philosophers thought peace meant removing pain - eliminating desires- killing emotion.
This produces a vacuum, not peace.
It’s more than an absence of conflict. Presence of Jesus.
Gen. 43:27 - "Is your old father well (Shalom) with, of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"
Peace is inner sense of well-being. Joy is mountain top of happiness - peace is plateau of contentment.
We don’t need to go into the valley of despair.

PATIENCE - Long-tempered, not short fused.
To put up with people. Enduring their unforgivable stupidity. Long-suffering. I Pet.3:20; II Pet.3:9-25.
God’s ultimate example.
Benign as opposed to harsh, crabby, grouchy, ill-tempered, sour. Spirit causes no one to be thus.

KINDNESS {chrestos} - virtuous - gracious -excellent. Not only sweet disposition but active benevolence.
Matt.11:30 “For my yoke is easy {kindly, pleasant} and my load is light”. Mellow & does not chafe.
Does our disposition make everyone around us as happy as possible ? True politeness.

GOODNESS - is concerned with measuring up to the standards of right and wrong..

EX. Jesus cleansed the temple & rebuked the Pharisees. An example of Jesus kindness is Jesus reaching out to women as well as children.

Generous, goodness & wholesome kindness is a perfect blend.

Not simply being doctrinally straight with coldness and harshness.

FAITHFULNESS {full of faith}- loyalty and trustworthiness.

Loyal commitment based on trust and belief. Acts 6:5 full of faith. Loyal to brethren.

“Reliable” . . . Are you reliable ? Are you faithful to your word & your promise ?

Are you faithful to contracts; licenses, loans, etc.?

GENTLENESS - Meekness. Not weakness or lack of courage.

Strength or a strong spirit under control.

EX. A bridled horse [rein-broken]

EX. Golden mean between excessive anger & spinelessness.

Num. 12:3 Moses - “very meek, more than all men who are in face of earth.” And yet says “let my people go.”

New Testament it is Jesus. Matt. 11:29; 21:5.

Gentleness is our “yield the right-of-way sign”. Teachable and submissive to authority.

*** The quality of a man who is always angry at the right time and never at wrong time. Self governed.

SELF-CONTROL - not just “temperance” [no booze]. KJV

“To hold, to grip, to have power over

Mastery over bodily appetites, especially sex.

Reasoning must control stomach’s desires.

When we are masters of ourselves then we become fit servants.

AGAINST SUCH THERE IS NO LAW. No legal restraints.

We may do anything we please, since what we please to do pleases God and is in His will.