

The Fruit Of The Spirit

Galatians 5:22-26

Intro:

- A. The born again person has two natures.
 - 1. The flesh nature.
 - 2. The spirit nature.
 - B. These are contrary to one another.
 - 1. **Vs. 17** "...and these are contrary one to another..."
 - 2. They make life difficult through inner conflict.
 - C. They bear or produce different acts or things.
 - 1. **Vs. 19** The Works of the flesh are obvious.
 - 2. The fruit of the spirit are not works, they are attitudes, character, principles.
 - 3. The character must be re-structured.
- I. The First Triad, Has To Do With God.
- A. **Vs. 22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is..."**
 - 1. "Fruit" = καρπος = "that which is produced by growth", "the product", "the result".
 - 2. "Of the Spirit" = The gen. indicates the source or cause of the fruit.
 - 3. **John 15:1-8**
 - B. **"...Love, Joy, Peace..."**
 - 1. "Love" = αγαπη = unselfish love for God or man.
 - 2. "Joy" = χαρα = "gladness", This is grounded in one's concept of God and one's relationship to God.
 - 3. "Peace" = ειρηνη = peace, rest, the absence or end of strife. It is the "rest" of Hebrews 3 & 4. This would be a time of God's divine protection and His provender and of their service to Him.
- II. The Second Triad Has To Do With Others.
- A. **"longsuffering".**
 - 1. μακροθυμια = "patient, endurance under ridicule and pain brought on one by others".
 - 2. **James 5:11** Job was, "patient" with others.
 - 3. **James 5:10** The Old Testament prophets were longsuffering and are examples for us.
 - 4. **II Peter 3:9** God is longsuffering. **II Peter 3:15;**
I Peter 3:20

B. **"gentleness, goodness,"**

1. "Gentleness" = χρηστοτης = goodness that shows itself in benevolence, kindness that will result in practical deeds that meet specific needs.
2. "Goodness" = αγαθωσυνη = the quality of a person whose life is ruled by moral worth and true goodness solely apart from attractiveness.
3. **Romans 15:14** It is necessary to those who would correct the action of others.

III. The Third Triad Has To Do With Self.

A. **Vs. 23 "...faith, meekness, temperance:"**

1. "Faith" = πιστις = "faithfulness" = Here, one who believes God and builds on the rock, doing what God says and is therefore trustworthy, can be counted on at all times to do what is right.
2. "Meekness" = πραυτης = gentle, enduring all things with an even temper, tender of spirit, free from haughty self-sufficiency."
3. "Temperance" = εγκρατεια = mastery over one's self:, Self control, the holding in of passions, inner strength and power.

B. **"...against such there is no law."**

1. "and no law exists against any of them..." - Phi
2. These things need no law to regulate them. One can not do any of them to excess. We can never love too much or be too kind, etc.
3. Also, law cannot produce these things. They are produced by the Holy Spirit. Christ was all of these, but not because of law.

IV. How To Deal With The Flesh.

A. **Vs. 24 "And they that are Christ's..."**

1. "And they that belong to Christ..."
2. This is not for the pretenders!

B. **"...have crucified the flesh..."**

1. "Crucified" = σταυρωω = "to stake", "to drive stakes", in N.T., to nail to a stake. εσταυρωσαν is aor., act., ind. The aor. points to a completed action in the past.
2. This is similar to the statement of Paul. **Romans 6:6-8**
3. Our flesh was crucified with Christ on the cross but we must, "Reckon" or "count" it dead and take up our cross daily.

- C. **"...with the affections and lusts."**
1. **"Affections"** = παθημα = "a passion".
 2. **"Lusts"** = επιθυμια = "to fix the desires upon", "to have one's affections directed toward anything."
 3. The flesh and what it desires has been nailed to the cross along with the law!

V. How To Deal With The Spirit.

- A. **Vs. 25 "If we live in the Spirit..."**
1. **"Live"** = ζαω = "to have life, to live".
 2. "If the Spirit is the source of our life."
 3. This is the "life" that comes from the "incorruptible semen", the new birth.
- B. **"...let us also walk in the Spirit."**
1. **"Walk"** = στοιχεω = "to stand or go in order, advance in rows or ranks; thence, to walk according to any rule or order".
 2. This refers to military orders. If we have been born again we have a rule or order and we must march according to those orders.

VI. The Three Works Of The Flesh That Were Destructive To The Galatians.

- A. **Vs. 26 "Let us not be desirous of vain glory..."**
1. κενοδοξος = "full of empty pride and ambition".
 2. "...we won't need to look for honors & popularity".
- B. **"...provoking one another..."**
1. **"Provoking"** = προκαλεω = "to call forth", "to invite out", "to challenge to combat".
 2. "...challenging one another to rivalry..." NEB
- C. **"...envying one another."**
1. **"Envying"** = φθονος = "jealousy of another's success", "running someone down because of their success".
 2. "...regarding one another with envy." - Con.

