

let me read from

Matthew 7:17-20

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Galatians 5

16 ... Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these];

Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Does the way you live identify you as a Christian?

We have specifically identified the Fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5

22 ... love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: ...

❶ LET'S BE KNOWN AS A CHRISTIAN by the fruit of the Spirit.

Which fruit of the Spirit is found the most in the Bible?

Love? would have been my guess.

No. Goodness? Faith! Joy?

No. No. and No.

NOTE: Peace is found in the Bible 429 times.

MONTH	FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT	OCCURENCES
April	love	311
May	joy	165
June	peace	429
July	longsuffering	17
August	gentleness	4
September	goodness	51
October	faith (faithfulness)	247
November	meekness	14
December	temperance (self-discipline)	3

② Here are the 9 fruit of the Spirit that should be found in our lives....

1. Love

this is the first of the fruit of the Spirit: love

John 13

By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

NLT: Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

The Greek word used in Galatians 5, and again here in John 13, is agape.

This is the kind of love that God loves us with...

It is self-sacrificing. It is unconditional.

Talking about love that is impossible for any human to achieve on their own. It can only be developed as a fruit of the Spirit.

But, Jesus says that developing this kind of love in your heart is the only way the world will be able to identify you as His.

Love is known as THE CHRISTIAN VIRTUE

The Apostle John says it well:

1 John 4

7 ¶ Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

second fruit of the Spirit..... is

2. Joy

Let me give you a definition of "joy."

Joy is an evidence of the presence of God in your life.

Or....a more Biblical phrase....

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit.

3. Peace

4. Longsuffering

tonight we will add

5. Gentleness

that leaves.....

6. Goodness

7. Faith

8. Meekness

9. Temperance

with these 4 to go.....we better get busy working on the first five!!!!

The fifth fruit of the Spirit is: gentleness.

Galatians 5

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The fruit of the Spirit

1. love
2. joy
3. peace
4. longsuffering
5. gentleness
6. goodness
7. faith,
8. meekness
9. temperance

Gentleness

In the secular or profane world, this word was used to mean honesty or respectability.

In Scripture, it is used to mean:

1. moral goodness, integrity
2. kindness
3. gentleness
4. friendliness, mildness

From the root word: khra-sto's

- 1) fit, fit for use, useful
- a) virtuous, good
- b) mild, pleasant (as opp. to harsh, hard sharp, bitter)

This quality should penetrate the whole nature, mellowing that human nature out so that it is not harsh or severe.

The word that is translated here as gentleness is found 10 times in 8 verses in the New Testament:

ALL THESE SCRIPTURES WITH THE YELLOW HIGHLIGHTED ON THE SCREEN.....

Rom 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his **goodness** and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Rom 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth **good**, no, not one.

Rom 11:22 Behold therefore the **goodness** and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in [his] **goodness**: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

2Cr 6:6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by **kindness**, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, **gentleness**, goodness, faith, (NOTE: not the KJV goodness)

Eph 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in [his] **kindness** toward us through Christ Jesus.

Col 3:12 ¶ Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, **kindness**, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Tts 3:4 But after that the **kindness** and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

Liddell and Scott
goodness, honesty, uprightness, kindness, good-nature

All of the following versions have: kindness
NIV, NASB, Amplified, NLT, ESV, CEV, NKJV, NCV, GW, ASV,
Young's,
Darby, Holman, WE, NIVUK, NIV, TNIV.

Only KJV and the 21st Century KJV use gentleness.

STORY of John Wesley
A rough drunken sailor happened to be on a street that John Wesley was passing though.....
As the two intersected.....
the drunken vulgar man began to swear....

Wesley heard him as he used the Lord's name in vain and called upon GOD to bring damnation upon someone.....

Wesley touched the man on the shoulder....

He simply said to the man....

"You mean God bless you....."

The man was quickly rebuked in his spirit.....so that he thanked Wesley and the story goes on to say that he came that night to Wesley's revival service.

That is gentleness.

FRUIT INSPECTORS

Thus we have a checklist with which to judge ourselves.

We only have to examine our works, of what kind they are, and then we can arrive at a certain conclusion as to our state before GOD.....

Matthew 7
16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Paul gives us two clearly defined lists....

WORKS OF THE FLESH		WORKS OF THE SPIRIT	
adultery		love	
fornication		joy	
uncleanness		peace	
lasciviousness,		longsuffering	
hatred		gentleness	
strife		goodness	
wrath		faith	
envyings		meekness	

	and such like		temperance
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Just as I did not list all of the WORKS OF THE FLESH that are found in Galatians 5.....

This list that Paul gives us is not to be though as being exhaustive.

2 Corinthians 7

1 ... let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh...

FRUIT of the Spirit not exhaustive.....

Certainly there are other lists of the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT that contain other SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS equal to these.

JESUS taught in the Sermon on the Mount what could be considered FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.....

Matthew 5

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to

be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

James Hastings in Great Texts of the Bible, in reference to Galatians 5.22 and 23, in his article entitled The Fruit of the Spirit, writes....

This text needs no introduction.

I would add that when a Christian demonstrates the Fruit of the Spirit, his Christianity needs no introduction.

Galatians 2

20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:

Galatians 5

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

If we have a new life in the risen Christ, then He should control our ways; we should be yielded to Him and walking in the Spirit.

I admit that I can never do it on my own strength; but through the power and re-generation of His Spirit....CHRIST will manifest Himself through us and will produce the FRUIT of the SPIRIT.

The fruit of the Spirit is the creation of the Holy Ghost.

The fruit is not something that springs out of our old nature, after it is trained, amended, educated, refined and developed.

Kittel

We do not interpret this word correctly if simply understood as having the human characteristic of kindness or gentleness.

The Apostle Paul is expressing the great experience that comes when God's love is revealed and shed abroad in the hearts of His people by His Spirit.

Illustration:

A gardener might as well take a old dead branch and attach green leaves and fresh fruit....would be the same for us to think that we can produce this fruit from our carnal nature.

For the perfection of the fruit that Paul is calling for.... the Spiritual must master the carnal.

While we will never completely rid ourselves of this carnal or natural nature.... we must continue to cultivate and strengthen our Spiritual nature through

prayer

worship

Bible Study

service to God.....

That power that leads us to producing the Fruit of the Spirit is the Spirit of God. The lower nature urges us to simply follow the instinct of self.....

The selfish nature that lives to satisfy our carnal and natural desires of the flesh.

The Spirit of God.....on the other hand teaches us..... that man does not live by bread alone.....

Men follow signs.....

But signs can be duplicated.

Example: the Egyptian magicians could duplicate the wonders of Moses.

Signs and wonders can perhaps be falsified.

But not the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

The Message

Galatians 5

24 Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting

our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.

Contemporary English Version

There is no law against behaving in any of these ways.

There would be no court room that would condemn a man for demonstrating the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.