



THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

Pastor A.S.O Olaleye

Text: Galatians 5:22-23

October 18, 2022

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

What is fruit of the Spirit?

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is a biblical term that sums up nine attributes of a person or community living in accord with The Holy Spirit.

The Greek word καρπός that we translate “fruit” usually means fruit in the sense of edible fruits and vegetables, but it can also be translated as offspring, deed, action, result, or profit.

In an agrarian society, fruit is a good thing; it is the result of hard work and careful tending.

Today we might use the word “fruit” in a phrase such as the “fruit of our labor” to communicate the results of our effort.

In Biblical context, “fruit” in this verse can mean “deed, action, or result”.

The result is the work of the Spirit in a believer’s life is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control.

In the three verses prior, Galatians 5:19-21, Paul contrasted the acts/works of the flesh: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like to the good fruit of the Spirit.

What Are the Nine Fruits of the Spirit?

The Apostle Paul states the following nine "Fruits of the Spirit" that result from true repentance, turning away from our sinful ways towards love for God and neighbors:

1. Love

In Galatians 5:22-23.

Greek has multiple words for love including:

eros, which is sexual love,

Phelos, which is brotherly love.

Agape' is perfect love that only God can give.



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"In respect of agape as used of God, it expresses the deep and constant 'love' and interest of a perfect Being towards entirely unworthy objects.

Love for God and others is the result of receiving God's perfect agape' love. Jesus encouraged his followers in (John 15:9-11), "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

What is True Love?

True love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (To persist steadfastly in pursuit of an undertaking, task, journey, or goal, even if hindered by distraction, difficulty, obstacles, or discouragement).

2. "Do everything in love." — 1 Corinthians 16:14

3. "If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing." — 1 Corinthians 13:2

4. "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." — 1 Peter 4:8

5. "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." — 1 Corinthians 13:13

6. "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." — John 15:12

7. "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." — Colossians 3:14

8. "With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." — Ephesians 4:2-3



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9. "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." —1 John 4:12

God is love, but do you understand what that means?

Something has bothered me for a long time. I'm referring to the fact that even devout Christians seem to place far more emphasis on the adjectives applied to God in the Bible than on the nouns. This is not to say that the adjectives are not vitally important—God is Almighty; God is righteous; God is holy; God is merciful; God is compassionate, and so on.

But frankly, nouns are more important than adjectives when it comes to the character of any sentient being—whether we are talking about God or angels or human beings.

That God is love tells us something very different than saying we have a loving God.

That God is life is different than saying God is living or lively.

That God is light is different than saying God is enlightening. You see my point. Too often we emphasize the adjectives without fully taking in the implications of the nouns.

We may ask, "Why is the Great Commandment to love God with all your being and your neighbor as yourself? Why does Paul say that love is even greater than faith or hope in 1 Corinthians 13:13? Why is "love" the first of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5?"

The conclusion is that what God most requires of us and most wants us to manifest in all our relationships (including with our enemies) is that which most characterizes the very nature of God—love.

Most of us are familiar with 1 John 4:8 and 16, which states unequivocally, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. . . . Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."



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That seems to be clear enough, but what happens when we make “God is love” into our starting point for reflecting on the character of God?

Since we must take into account all that the Bible says, I will hasten to add that God’s love is a holy love, which is markedly distinct from human love as we often use the term.

God’s holiness is not without love, and he’s not love without holiness; indeed, the very essence of holiness is love—a love that transforms sinners into “holy ones” or saints.

