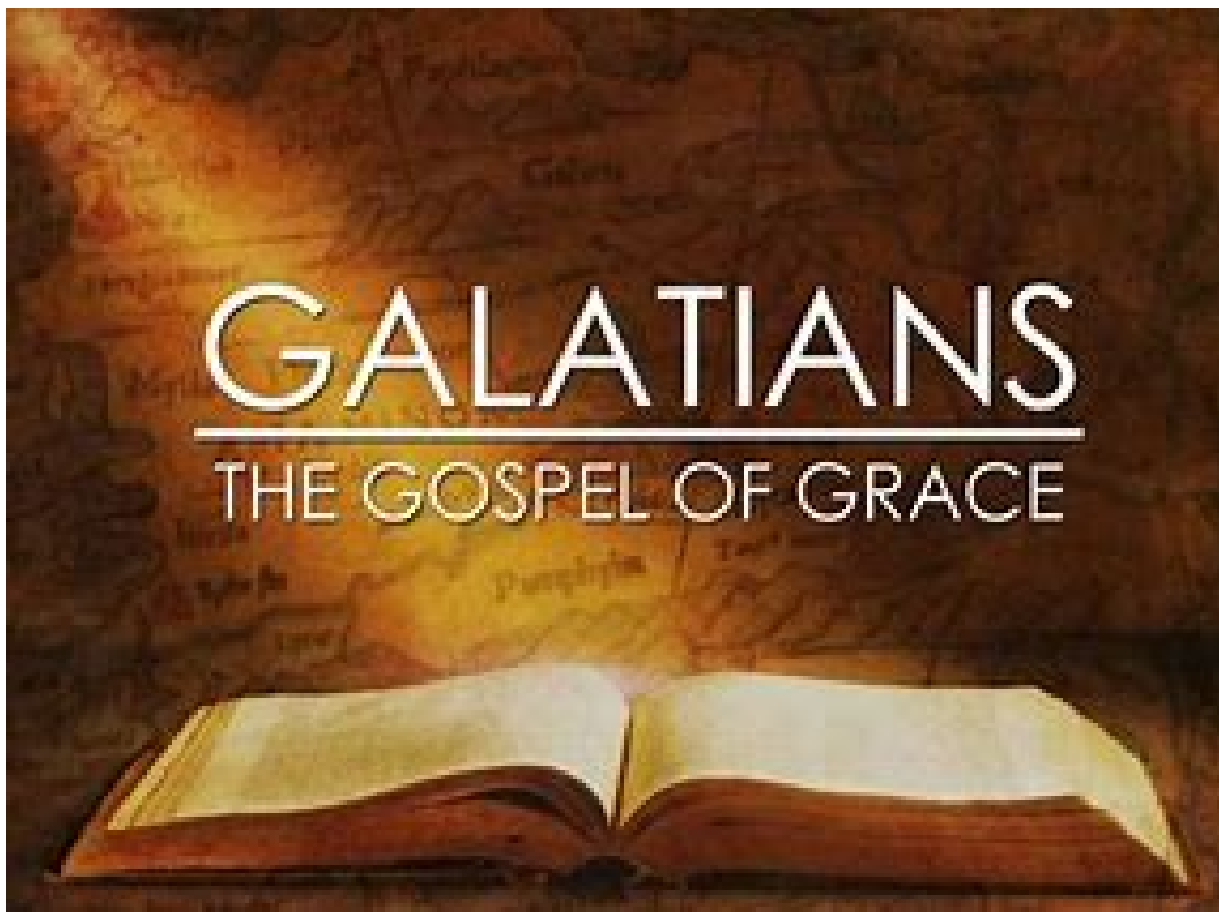




Gal 5:22-23 The Fruit of the Spirit part 2



²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.



Subject: the fruit - note it is singular!

Modifier: of the Spirit – tells us the source of the fruit

Verb: is – *eimi* – the state in which someone or something continuously exists – present tense

- so this singular “fruit of the Spirit” continuously exists as described by the list of attributes which follow
- each attribute exists simultaneously with the other
- these attributes identify the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit

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- note these nine attributes of the fruit of the Spirit are all singular nouns
- Chafer says of the fruit of the Spirit:
 - Every word (of the nine attributes) as here used, represents a superhuman quality of life.
 - It is an exact description of the life of Christ;
 - but Christlikeness is never gained by the energy of the flesh.
 - These virtues are not found in human nature; they are the (singular) “fruit of the Spirit.”

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness,
co



God-ward attributes: love, joy, peace

Love - *agape* – this love springs from the value and preciousness placed on its object

Joy - *chara* - gladness of heart, delight regardless of circumstances

Peace - *eirene* - state of rest in a believer's heart and mind (the peace of God)

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- It is possible to group these nine attributes as follows:
- **God-ward attributes:** love, joy, peace
- **Other-ward attributes:** patience, kindness, goodness
- **Self-ward attributes:** faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

The Attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit



Patience (longsuffering)- *makrothumia* - lit: long temper;
to bear (suffer) long, patience

It's that quality of self restraint in the face of provocation. It does not hastily retaliate or punish, it is to have a long fuse.*

God's longsuffering:

a. The patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah
b. God is withholding his wrath in the present

- Upon unbelieving mankind - Rom. 2:4-6

- Upon the heavens & earth - 2 Pet. 3:10-15

c. The result of God's longsuffering -

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

The Attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit



Patience (longsuffering) cont.

The world sees God's longsuffering through believers:

- a. Col 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on* a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
- b. Col 1:10-11 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, --- bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; --- for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously
- c. 1 Tim 1:16 --- so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

* by abiding in Christ

The Attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit



Kindness - goodness of heart, kindness, graciousness

“It is the grace which pervades the whole nature, mellowing all that would be harsh and austere (severe).” Zodiates

The source:*

- God’s/Christ’s kindness in our salvation - Titus 3:4,5
- We are God’s showcase for His gentleness/kindness –
Eph. 2:6,7

Our walk in it:*

- Command: Be kind to one another - Eph. 4:32
- Command: Clothe yourselves with kindness - Col. 3:12
 - Clothe is the idea to “put on” something

The Attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit



Goodness* – describes that moral quality which, being good in its character is beneficial in its effect

The source:

- Matt 19:17 --- there is none good but one, that is, God
- God is the only one that can truly benefit us – because He is the only source (of goodness)

God's goodness to us:

- God works every circumstance in our lives for our good (benefit). The primary benefit is to conform us to the image of Christ – Rom 8:28-29
- God identified us in Christ's life so that we can conduct our lives in His good (beneficial) works – Eph 2:6-10
- Our father chastens us for our own profit (benefit) so that we might be partakers in His holiness – Heb 12:3-11

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The Attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit



Faithfulness – is the quality which renders a person trustworthy and steadfast

The source:

True lasting faithfulness (trustworthiness) is from God

The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. Lam 3:22-23

More on faithfulness:

- God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able - 1 Cor 10:13b
- Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, ---- but showing all good faith (faithfulness) so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect. Titus 2:9-10

The Attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit



Gentleness* (meekness) - an inner quiet strength and power whose source is Christ and is focused on others.

- meekness is not: weakness in character, passivity, pride, arrogance, self-assertiveness or self-interest

2 Cor 10:1 Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ - I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

1 Peter 3:15b --- always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness (meekness) and reverence;

Eph 4:1-2 --- implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling --- with all humility and gentleness, with patience,

also from before: “put on” a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience Col 3:12

The Attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit



Self-control (temperance) – lit: with strength – to be self controlled in every area our lives

This reality is true of God and need not be declared or defended; --- but provided for by the power of the Spirit.*

- 2 Pet 1:4-6 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature,
--- “in your faith” supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance,
- Temperance or self-control is required of a bishop or elder in the church (cf. Titus 1:7-9), so, also, of the aged believer (Titus 2:2).

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There is not a law against such things (interlinear)

the point is – there is no principle of law in existence
against such things

What are the “such things”?

- In context it is the nine attributes of the fruit of the Spirit
- The deeds of the flesh are certainly against God’s law
- But attributes of the fruit of the Spirit are the very character of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Therefore a law is not required - 1 Tim 1:9 realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, ---

What does the singular fruit represent?*



John 16:14 "He (Holy Spirit) will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you."

- The Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ
- Glorify is to magnify (extol, praise) who Christ is (His love, joy, peace, etc.)
- The Holy Spirit will take (receive) of who Christ is
- The Holy Spirit will then disclose who Christ is to you
- So the singular fruit represents the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ

John 15:4-5

Believer
branches



fruit
Love, Joy
Peace
etc.

vine

Christ

How can this singular fruit of the Spirit be manifested in the believer's life?*



John 15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit** of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

- it is impossible for the fruit of the Spirit to be manifested in the believer unless
 - we abide in Christ
 - abide means to remain, to be at home
- abiding in Christ is a moment by moment fellowship with Christ
 - having Christ as our life source
 - it is by faith with Christ as our object

** all the fruit that the New Testament speaks of

* adapted from Hal Molloy

How can this singular fruit of the Spirit be manifested in the believer's life?* (cont.)



John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

- We are the branches plugged into the vine
- The fruit is determined by the essence of the vine not by the branch (just a conduit)
- The fruit is independent of the environment (circumstances in life)
- Results:
 - abide in the vine (Christ), then much fruit
 - not abide in the vine (i.e. abiding self) you can do nothing (powerless to produce fruit)

Final Thoughts



John 15:8a "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit,

- bearing of fruit is the revealing of the glory of Christ
- much fruit = means that Christ's glory be manifested in us more fully moment by moment*
- Christ's glory can only be seen as we walk by the Spirit

* adapted from Hal Mohr