

Faith By the Numbers: (11/26/17 pm)

Title: 9 Fruits of the Spirit: Love

Text: (Gal 5:22-23)

Now the works of the flesh are ..

Adultery: Sex outside of Marriage

Fornication: Sex before Marriage

Uncleanness: Sexual Deviance

Lasciviousness: Sexual Deviance

Idolatry: Valuing something more than your relationship with God.

Witchcraft: Sorcery; being under the influence of demonic forces.

Hatred: Having a great dislike for another.

Variance: Argumentative.

Emulations: An unhealthy desire for superiority.

Wrath: Revengeful feelings of getting even.

Strife: Spreading angry contentions.

Seditions: Raising Commotion.

Heresies: Straying from Known Bible Truth.

Envyings: A general uneasiness with the happiness of others.

Murders: Premeditated Killing of another human being.

Drunkenness: To be habitually overpowered with intoxication from alcohol.

Reveling: Uncontrolled feasting & carousing, Constant desire to be entertained.

Such like:

(Gal 5:21b) *“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.”*

(1 Cor 6:9-10) *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

(1 Cor 6:11) Gives us hope!

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Being IN the Flesh, vs Walking AFTER the Flesh

A believer cannot walk IN the flesh, but can intentionally follow AFTER the flesh.

(Rom 8:1) *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

If we are IN Christ, we will not be condemned by God

When we walk AFTER the Flesh, we do experience the condemnation of the devil.

There is a BIG difference between the Holy Spirit's Conviction, and the Devil's Condemnation.

(Rom 8:5) *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*

(Rom 8:8) *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

To please God we must “*Walk in the Spirit*” by faith.

(Rom 8:9) *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you...*

Reference our position in Christ & His position in us

(Rom 8:10) *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

(Gal 5:20-21) (BAD FLESH)

Pretty easy to recognize from a person's behavior

(Gal 5:22-23) (RIGHTEOUS FLESH)

(Gal 3:1) Bewitched by a (GOOD FLESH)
Neither “*Righteous*” nor “*Unrighteous*”
“*Self-Righteous*” Behavior

Satan knows we are not going to be comfortable under Holy Ghost Conviction from the behaviors of (Gal 5:19-21)

(2 Cor 11:14-15) Satan appears as an angel of light.
His tactics seem spiritual and good.
But he leads us to walk in our flesh to do good, rather than reliance upon the Spirit of God.

(Good Flesh vs. Righteous Flesh)

(Gal 5:22-23) **The Fruits of the Spirit**

Transforming: Love, Joy, & Peace

Conforming: Longsuffering, Gentleness, & Goodness

Reforming: Faith, Meekness, & Temperance

What is meant by the word “*Fruit*”?

On Purpose, God has limited Himself in the way in which He will respond to all forms of Adversity.

This was His decision.

The Spirit will lead you to respond in one of these 9 ways, or not to respond at all.

These “*Fruits*” are God's 9 actions or reactions to all circumstances in life.

The devil, as an angel of light, mimicking God's true leadings thereby offering us alternative to each of God's 9 fruits.

That gives us 19 choice, with 1 of them as abstaining from responding at all.

The problem with Christianity in our day is that we as Christians do not have a dynamic enough walk with God to discern the difference between righteous responses under the influence of the Holy Spirit, and Self-Righteous responses under the influence of the flesh.

Transforming: Love, Joy, & Peace
(Inner being transformation)

(Rom 12:2) Transforming precedes Conforming.

These are Inside Behaviors of man.

These fruits can go undetected.

Before a person can act right outwardly, there has to be an inward change.

These are responses to adversity

The devil attacks us from the outside to influence us.

Lust of the Flesh to prey on the Mind.

Lust of the Eyes to prey upon the Will.

Pride of Life to prey upon the Emotions.

He uses these outside influences in attempt to destroy the inside.

God works from the Inside out.

The inner man communicates with God.

The Holy Spirit influences the Inner Man, we yield to His influence it is always conforms the outer being to the image of Christ.

Love:

3 Types of LOVE in the Greek language.

“*Eros*” erotic = Physical Love (Not used in NT)

“*Philos*” or “*Philadelphia*” = Brotherly Love

Affectionate, fondness,

“*Agape*” = the willing sacrificial giving of oneself for the benefit of others without thought of return.

This is God's kind of love.

Selfless, Sacrificial, no strings attached.

This kind of love is available for us to demonstrate to others by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(John 3:16) God willingly, sacrificially gave of himself for the benefit of others without the thought of return.

He didn't even require us to change first before offering it to us. (Rom 5:8)

God the Father was not alone in this.
God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ also gave
Himself willingly.

(Eph 5:2) *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

“*Walk in love*” denotes a following after.
Christ followed the Spirit’s leading and expressed
the Father’s love to us.

We ALSO, need to follow the Spirit’s leading and
express the Father’s love to others.

The consequence of not doing this is, that others will
not be convinced that we are believers and followers
of Christ.

(John 13:34-35)

God is asking us to willingly and sacrificially give
ourselves for the benefit of God & others.

Love is God’s tool for showing unselfish favor to
undeserving people.

(1 Cor 13:1-3) *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2*

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Fleshly Sacrifice: Eloquent speaking of various
languages.

End Result w/o Yielding to Love: they are of no
Value to the hearer than random notes of a trumpet
or the crash of a cymbal.

Fleshly Sacrifice: Great understanding of God and
His ways as well as an ability to communicate
those truths and to live them as well.

End Result w/o Yielding to Love: You amount to
nothing in their eyes. They will not be impressed
with our apparent spiritual gifts.

Fleshly Sacrifice: Give all my possessions to feed
the weak and needy and sacrifice my life for
the same.

End Result w/o Yielding to Love: These great
sacrifices will be of no profit to the giver in this life
nor in the next life.

However: in (1 For 13: 4-8) we see the great value our works will be if we add to these sacrifices a yielding to the fruit of the Spirit~Love.

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

Suffereth long, and is kind: puts up with inconveniences

Envieth not: lifts up others, not self.

Vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up: is not stuck up/proud

Doth not behave itself unseemly: Acts Right/ Righteously.

Seeketh not her own: Looks for what is right.

Is not easily provoked: Responds Right

Thinketh no evil: Thinks Right

Rejoiceth not in iniquity: Doesn't get excited about wrong.

Rejoiceth in the truth: Gets excited about what is right.

Beareth all things: Carries the weight.

Believeth all things: Gives the benefit of the doubt.

Hopeth all things: Hopes for the best.

Endureth all things: Keeps on Keeping on.

Never Fails: Works every time.

Lets think about our forms of service for God and others.

Honestly, does our love manifest itself in the proper behaviors listed above? ***Sometimes?***

It is as if our love is genuine and our hearts are pure, yet we tend to behave in a somewhat selfish manner when we are expressing our love.

The opposite of the fruit of the Spirit-Love is Hate. We fairly fall for the Satan's temptation to Hate. So he has created a subtle alternative, a Self-Righteous love that is done in our own power.

It's not God's love flowing through us to others, it is Our love, or SELF LOVE.

Self Love is the willing, or unwilling giving of myself to benefit others with selfish thoughts of return.

Illus: Know someone or are someone who serves tirelessly in the church, but if you are not recognized for it, every so often you get offended and want to quit?

This is not serving God or others, it is serving SELF.
Good people, acting like bad christians.

Good people, doing good works, in the power of the flesh.

(John 15:12-13) *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

Ask yourself: Over the last 7 days...
Have I been willingly to give of myself without expectation of being given back too?

Do I serve, without thoughts of receiving their gratitude?

Next week: Joy Vs. Frustration
Peace Vs. Worry

Conforming: Longsuffering, Gentleness, & Goodness

(Outer being conformation)

These are evidenced by outward behavior.

After the Transformation of the mind begins, these 3 fruits will cause us to UN-CONFORM from the world and conform to the image of Christ.

Reforming: Faith, Meekness, & Temperance
(New being reformation)

Read Gal 5 this week, ask God to start opening your understanding to these as we will study them next week.