



Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

The Fruit of the Spirit!

Lesson Text: Galatians 5:16-25

Focus Verses: Galatians 5:16-25 - ²⁴And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ²⁵If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Truth About Covenant: Living in covenant is the best life we could live.

Covenant Context: Living for God is the most fruitful, fulfilling life possible, but it does not always come naturally to us. That is why Paul wrote nine letters to churches to teach them how to live once they were in covenant with God. This new covenant life will bear the fruit of the Spirit. Otherwise, we will find in our own lives the weeds of the works of the flesh.

The issue with the Law is it only revealed the problem but could not provide a permanent solution. However, Jesus Christ's fulfillment of the Law and outpouring of His Spirit upon humanity gave us not only the ability to identify the problem but also the solution. When we receive and walk in the Spirit, we are using the tools Jesus Christ provided to begin to fix the problems we find in our lives. Our hatred can be smothered by producing the fruit of love. Unhappiness will be reorganized by the joy of the Spirit reigning in our lives. Chaos will be canceled when we release the peace that passes understanding through His Spirit in our lives. **The fruit of the Spirit includes the tools to fix the problem, not just to identify it.**

The Law was about works, while the Spirit is about growth. The Law only pointed out when a person was wrong. When we are born again, we speak in tongues as the initial sign that we have been Spirit filled. When we live filled with the Spirit, God's Spirit naturally produces fruit as ongoing evidence of the Spirit's power working in our lives.

This fruit is a package deal, not a roadside market to choose from. When we receive and allow the Spirit to reign in our lives, it continually produces all this fruit daily. We produce love, joy, peace, longsuffering (bearing the faults of others because we are not faultless), gentleness, faith, meekness, and temperance (self-control) (Galatians 5:22-23). It is unique that Paul left them with this thought regarding the fruit of the Spirit: *"Against such there is no law"* (Galatians 5:23).

Paul's list seventeen works of the flesh; the first four are sins of sexual immorality (Galatians 5:19). The other nine works are actions against God and others (v. 20) and the final four works mentioned reveal lack of respect for others (v. 21). We must take inventory, and if our lives are filled with these works, we are being led by our flesh and not by His Spirit.

The enemy often counterfeits God's good gifts. No one needs to cultivate the counterfeit; it is simply there. This appetite for evil in fallen humanity is described in the condition of those who lived just before the Flood: *"Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"* (Genesis 6:5). **Let us learn to recognize the false from the fruit and weed them out of our lives, replacing them with true fruit of the Spirit.**

The fruit of the Spirit will only grow in our lives when we crucify our sinful nature. The resurrection the Spirit provides then causes that seed to burst to life, grow, and mature until it produces much fruit. Choose today to crucify the attitudes of your sinful nature and allow the Spirit to reign in your life. Then watch the Spirit grow daily, producing a harvest of abundant fruit to bless others. **We can enjoy as much of the fruit as we want without harm; eat up.** Enjoy as much as you want. This is the freedom God desires for His people—to walk in step with His Spirit and enjoy His blessings released in the fruit of the Spirit.

When we are walking in the Spirit, connected to the source of God's bountiful blessings, the fruit of the Spirit will be produced in our lives. When people are around us, they too will be amazed that we can be joyful when others are sad; peaceful when others are in chaos; temperate when others lose control; meek when others are proud and brash. The fruit of the Spirit simply depends on us digging our roots deep into our covenant relationship with God and watching God take care of the rest.