

Challenging Chapters of the Bible

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9 “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! 12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. 16 You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

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- **John 15:16 You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.**
- **It seems for certain that fruit bearing and love go together somehow.**
- **Our love for God compels us to change, and our love for others draws us into seeking change for them.**

What Does 'Fruit' Look Like?

- **Matt 7:15** "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. **16** You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act.
- **Matt 7:20** Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.
- To a great extent, fruit is what a life produces and gives evidence to who we really are.

What Does 'Fruit' Look Like?

- **Gal 5:16** So I say, live by (walk in) the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.
- **Gal 5:22** But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!
- So how does this happen? How is it that the Holy Spirit produces His fruit in our lives?

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- Eph 5:15 So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. 17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. 18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit ...
- It is the mysterious connection between His power and our surrender – when we cooperate, He is free to reproduce Christ in us.

The Fruit of the Spirit

- Don't make fruit bearing mechanical or technical – and even all that mystical.
- It is almost this simple – *it is the fruit of the Spirit.*
- Spiritual fruit is produced when we cooperate with the Spirit of God.

The Fruit of the Spirit

- **Your life will produce some kind of fruit – it is just a matter of what kind.**
- **A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. Matt 17:7**
- **We all get to decide what kind of fruit our lives will produce on a moment by moment basis.**

Gal 5:22-23

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

- **Love: We have love in Christ alone**
- **“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” –1 John 4:8, John**
 - **Jesus is the embodiment of love**
 - **We love because God is love**
 - **We love because He loved us first**

Gal 5:22-23

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- **Joy: Our joy is in Christ alone**
- **“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” –John 15:11, Jesus**
 - **Our joy is complete in Christ alone**
 - **Jesus is the embodiment of Joy**

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- **Peace: Our peace is in Christ alone**
- **“And through [Jesus] to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” – Colossians 1:19-20, Paul**
 - **Jesus has made peace through the cross**
 - **Jesus is the embodiment of peace**

Gal 5:22-23

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

- **Patience: In Christ we have patience**
- **“Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience.” –Colossians 1:11, Paul**
 - **Jesus empowers us to have patience**
 - **Jesus is the embodiment of patience**

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- **Kindness: Is found in Christ alone**
- **“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” –Ephesians 4:32, Paul**
 - **We can show kindness because Jesus has shown us kindness**
 - **Jesus is the embodiment of kindness**

Gal 5:22-23

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- **Goodness: Christ alone is good**
- **“‘Why do you call me good?’ Jesus answered. ‘No one is good--except God alone.’” –Mark 10:18**
 - **We are only good in Christ Jesus**
 - **Jesus is the embodiment of goodness**

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- **Faithfulness: Christ alone is faithful**
- **“But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.” –Hebrews 3:6**
 - **Jesus is faithful when we are not**
 - **Jesus is the embodiment faithfulness**

Gal 5:22-23

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- **Gentleness: True Gentleness is in Christ alone**
- **“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” –Colossians 3:12**
 - **Christ is the embodiment of true gentleness**
 - **We should be gentle in Christ’s gentleness**

Gal 5:22-23

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

- **Self-control: True self-control comes through Christ alone**
- **“Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” –Romans 7:21-25**
 - **Jesus is the embodiment of perfect self-control**
 - **We can control ourselves through Jesus Christ alone**

John 15:10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love

- **When we discussed verses #4 1nd #7 we talked about ‘remaining’ in Christ – obedience is a critical component, if not the key one.**
- **Great parts of the successful Christian life are determined by this simple concept – will I or obey?**
- **Obey what or who? The Spirit, the Word, and our consciences.**

John 15:18 “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. 19 The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. 20 Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. 21 They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me. 22 They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Anyone who hates me also hates my Father. 24 If I hadn’t done such miraculous signs among them that no one else could do, they would not be guilty. But as it is, they have seen everything I did, yet they still hate me and my Father. 25 This fulfills what is written in their Scriptures: ‘They hated me without cause.’ 26 “But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. 27 And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry.”

Questions