

Fruit Inspection

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

— Galatians 5:22-23 —

Here is another one of those Bible texts with which we are likely so familiar that we are prone to pass over it without serious thought or pause. Let us buck that fleshly, hurried tendency for a moment and meditate upon its meaning and application in our lives...

Fruit is something that can be seen, handled, and tasted. This passage is telling us that God's Spirit can be observed and felt by others through our lives in this nine-fold harvest. Does my life exhibit in tangible ways and plenteous quantities the fruit of the Spirit of the living God?

Love – this is the divine love that Christ's life displayed, and it is supposed to be resident within as well as flowing out from me. Is my life characterized by a burning love for God, a sincere and earnest love for my spiritual brethren, and a broad and real love for all men? Anything less is a fleshly, carnal counterfeit.

Joy – Am I a generally joyful person, or do I permit the things of the world to dictate my mood? Do others desire to be around me because the joy of my salvation is infectious?

Peace – Do I place my cares in my Father's omnipotent hands? Am I uptight, worried, anxious, or am I at rest in the knowledge that He is working even this present distress for my good?

Longsuffering – How is my patience? Do I act before I permit God to do so? Do I wait for him? Am I patient in listening to others? Am I alright with meeting people where they are?

Gentleness – Am I abrupt and abrasive, or kind and compassionate in my dealings with people? Jesus never broke a bruised reed or quenched a smoking flax. Do I follow His example?

Goodness – Do I reflect God's goodness to others? Am I a vociferously grateful person? Do others know me to be a good person (because they see God in me)?

Faith – Is this a defining characteristic of my person and being? Am I known to be a person of faith, and a faithful person?

Meekness – Am I easily imposed upon? Do I harbor any kind of resentment towards those who have wronged me?

Temperance – Does my life exhibit restraint in the areas of emotional engagement and subjective moral issues? Is the good of others more important to me than my personal liberty?

May the Spirit of God have His way with us today. --- D. Murcek