



Galatians 5:16-26

Don't Mix a Bad Apple with Good Apples! (Cumby 4:44)

Galatians 5:16-18, "I tell you, let your walk and conversation be dominated by the Spirit, and don't let the desires of the lower side of your nature have their way. For the desires of the lower side of human nature are the very reverse of the desires of the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are the very reverse of those of the lower side of human nature, for these are fundamentally opposed to each other, so that you cannot do whatever you like."

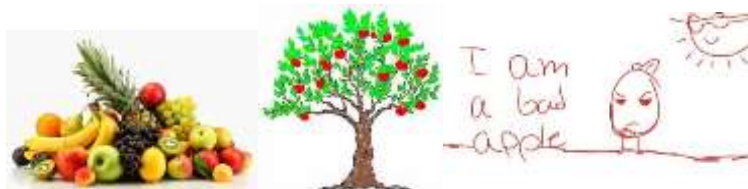
No man was ever more conscious of the tension in human nature than Paul.

A Poem by Studdert Kennedy: *I'm a man and a man's a mixture...Right down from his very birth; For a part of him comes from heaven...And a part of him comes from the earth.*

For Paul it was essential that Christian freedom did not mean freedom to indulge the lower side of human nature, but freedom to walk in the life of the Spirit.

Note: *The Spirit mentioned here in these verses never authorizes sin or the shadow of sin in any origin. The Holy Spirit can't sin and is grieved when the place where he resides in us is indulged in the practices of ungodly actions we brought within our minds, will, or emotions (soul).*

It is true... "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [the](#) darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."
Ephesians 6:12



Galatians 5:19-26, “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.** ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

Model Your Life after the Nine Fruits of the Spirit



What kind of character traits should a Christian have?

Remember the guy who pulled out in front of you and called you a few names because you threw up your hands and responded in a negative way?

Maturity Always Starts With a Humble and Grateful Heart...AT LEAST FOR THE CHRISTIAN.

"Fruit of the Spirit" is a biblical term that sums up the nine visible attributes of a true Christian life.

- We learn from scripture that these are not individual "fruits" from which we pick and choose.
- The fruit of the Spirit is one nine-fold "fruit" that characterizes all who truly walk in the Holy Spirit.
- Collectively, these are the fruits that all Christians should be producing in their new lives with Jesus Christ.
- The fruit of the Spirit is a physical manifestation of a Christian's transformed life.
- In order to mature as believers, we should study and understand the attributes of the nine-fold fruit:

Truth about the having the “fruit of the Spirit”: You can’t have the “fruit of the Spirit” unless you are part of His family. The Spirit of God does not live in you unless you have humbled yourself and asked for the forgiveness of your sin. When you do that, the Holy Spirit starts to reside in you when you accept the terms of the contract with the Holy God.

Terms of the Contract:

- 1. We have all sinned and deserve God’s judgment.**
- 2. God, the Father, sent His only Son to satisfy that judgment of those who believe in Him.**
- 3. Jesus, the creator and eternal Son of God, who lived a sinless life, loves us so much that he died for our sins, taking the punishment that we deserve,**
- 4. Jesus was buried and rose from the dead according to the Bible.**

If you truly believe and trust this in your heart, receiving Jesus alone as your Savior, declaring, “Jesus is Lord,” you will be saved from the penalty of sin and spend eternity with God in heaven. This contract is open for your decision...that of accepting or rejecting it.

Every one of us needs an occasional visit to the doctor for a checkup to make sure everything is working alright and that we don’t have an unknown serious condition.

The same is true with our spiritual lives.

- As creatures of habit, we tend to go through life on autopilot.*
- We often miss clues that indicate that our spirit is not enjoying the good health that God created it for.*
- In the same way that the doctor puts us through a battery of tests to diagnose potential physical problems, God has given us a process of evaluating.*

2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you— unless, of course, you fail the test?”

Examine Your:

- HEAD (Do you ask for wisdom or just go on banging your head against what the Bible is telling you to do and not to do?)**
- MOUTH (Do you speak words of encouragement; words that are not against God’s direction and desire for you?)**
- HEART (Do you provide God access to your heart’s desires?)**
- ARMS (Do you open your arms to the hurting...giving them a shoulder to lean on?)**
- LEGS and FEET (Do you go to the places God would be pleasing for you to go...or do you tread where your heart tells you not to go?)**

Remember...The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23).

Each of these is a characteristic of the Holy Spirit's active presence in our daily activities

Check #10. Walk by the Spirit. While not a fruit of the Spirit, the final item on the checkup produces all nine qualities listed above. When we follow the Spirit's lead instead of being led by our self-focused desires, He produces the fruit.

- But even when we don't walk by the Spirit, He is the very one who convicts us that things are not in proper order in our lives.
- God promises that if we are willing to admit that we have been walking our own way and ask for His forgiveness and cleansing, He will empower us through His Spirit to live above ourselves and live the abundant life for which He has created us.

Question: Am I actively depending on the Holy Spirit to guide me in God's ways so I don't get wrapped up in myself? If not, am I willing to confess to God that His ways are better than mine, and that I need the Spirit's guidance to live above the fray?

Romans 12:2, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Paul is basically saying to the church... "You should be walking the walk and talking the talk"... Living the Abundant Life.

***The Abundant Life... Under the burdens of guilt and care Many a spirit is grieving,
Who in the joy of the Lord might share Life everlasting receiving.***

Refrain:

*Life, life, eternal life! Jesus alone is the giver;
Life, life, abundant life! Glory to Jesus forever!*

*Bearing our burden of guilt, there came One who is strong to deliver;
Bringing to men, through His wondrous name, Life "more abundant" than ever.*

*Burdened one, why will you longer bear Sorrows from which He releases?
Open your heart and, rejoicing, share Life "more abundant" in Jesus!*

*Leaving the mountain, the streamlet grows, Flooding the vale with a river;
So, from the hill of the cross there flows Life "more abundant" forever.*

*O for the floods on the thirsty land! O for a mighty revival!
O for a sanctified, fearless band, Ready to hail its arrival!*