

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Fruit of the Spirit” Galatians 5:22-23

Sermon Series Title: “The Fruit of the Spirit”

Sermon Series Summary: In Christ, we have received new hearts and new life. With this new life, God bears the Fruit of the Spirit. It’s not something we do. It’s something that God grows within us through His Spirit.

Setting: One of the main themes of this letter is the call to live by way of the gospel. We are not saved or sustained by our good works. We are saved and sustained by the finished work of Christ. In our passage, we see a call for us to walk by the Spirit (5:16), not desiring the works of the flesh (slavery) but living out the fruit of the Spirit (freedom).

Summary: We are starting a ten-week series on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5. Through Scripture, we see that the Fruit of the Spirit is internal, singular, gradual, outward, inevitable, and grace-centered, with its source in Christ’s person and work.

Main Point: *“God will bear much fruit as we abide in Christ.”*

Sermon Points:

1. The Facets of Fruit
2. The Fount of Fruit

Opening Question

1. What does it look like to grow in our faith?

(Answers may vary.)

Growth in our faith is not quantified by the works we accomplish, but it’s defined by the fruit the Spirit bears within us through His Son.

Read Galatians 5:22-23

2. Which Fruit of the Spirit do you think you wrestle with the most? The least? How?

Community Group Discussion Questions

(Answers may vary.)

3. What facet of the Fruit of the Spirit from the sermon stuck out to you? Why?

(Restorative- We were created to worship and enjoy God through our obedience. But because of sin, our loves are disordered. We commit works of the flesh against our Creator. However, after our salvation and resurrected hearts, God bears His fruit within us. The fruit is the way we have been created to live. It's the way we live in freedom.

Internal- The fruit is not just behavioral or based on circumstances. It's rooted in the heart. Our spiritual DNA has changed as a heart of flesh has replaced the heart of stone within us. Our circumstances are not the cause of our fruit/thorns, but they bring out what is inside.

Singular- Paul uses fruit as a singular noun in our passage. It's not fruits of the Spirit but one fruit. This is because they have to be taken together. They are tied together. We are as weak as our weakest "fruit." For example, we are not truly loving if we are not patient, we are not truly self-controlled if we are not faithful, etc.

Gradual- This is a process. We are on a journey. It's a walk (v. 16). We will not display every fruit perfectly right after we are saved. This is all a part of the process of progressive sanctification.

Outward- All of the fruit is outward, meaning they are geared toward others. This means that the fruit is grown within community. How do we grow in love, patience, kindness, etc. without being in community?

Grace-centered- It's not a coincidence that Paul defines flesh according to works (works of the flesh, v. 19) and the Spirit as fruit. It's because working is derived from the self. It's a striving for something on our own. But fruit means that it is a work that God is doing in us. We grow by grace.

Inevitable- We believe in the Perseverance of the Saints. This means that God will preserve/persevere us till the end. In Philippians 1:6, we see that God will bring us to completion on the last day. The Fruit of the Spirit is inevitable.)

4. How do we grow in the Fruit of the Spirit?

Community Group Discussion Questions

(According to John 15:1-17, we are called to abide in Christ. We are united to Jesus. We grow in our walk with and love for Him. We spend time with Him. We understand, remember, and experience over and over again the ways He displayed the Fruit of the Spirit perfectly and the way He showed the fruit to us for our salvation. In John 15, it shows us that we are called to abide in Him, which means to abide in His words. We are to position ourselves in a way where we will catch the wind of God's love, grace, and mercy to grow in His fruit.)

Final Thoughts: *The Fruit of the Spirit is not an evaluation sheet or a report card. It's the heart of God, fully displayed through the person and work of Christ. Jesus displayed the Fruit in His life, death, and resurrection, and He displays the Fruit to us in our salvation. And by His grace, His Spirit has changed our spiritual DNA and grows the fruit within us. Are we displaying the fruit of the Spirit?*