

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.

"We are in our "Fruit of the Spirit" sermon series, and through this series, we see that our growth is not quantified by the works we accomplish but is defined by the fruit God's Spirit bears within us through His Son."

Call: 2 Samuel 22:21-22

Text: Galatians 5:22-23

Title: "The Fruit of the Spirit"

Next Week's Call: 2 Samuel 22:23-25

Next Week's Text: Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

Next Week's Title: "Love"

Future Calls: 2 Samuel 22:26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 47-49, 50-51

Future Titles: "Joy" (Galatians 5:22-23)

Fallen Condition Focus: We do works of the flesh and believe counterfeit fruit is real fruit.

Christ redeeming FCF: Jesus is the first fruits of the resurrection and He is the One perfectly displayed the fruit of the Spirit, while dying on the cross for the works of our flesh.

Central Truth: God will bear much fruit as we abide in Christ.

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.

Reflective Questions:

1. What facet of the Fruit of the Spirit stuck out to you?
2. How do we grow in the Fruit of the Spirit?

## I. Introduction

- A. Hook- Spirit-filled church in Acts; new life through resurrection; what that new life looks by the working of the Spirit
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

## II. The Facets of Fruit (vv. 22-23)

### A. Restorative

- 1. We were created to glorify and enjoy God in obedience.
  - 1. Coca-cola for gas
  - 2. But because of sins, we are all out of sorts- disordered loves.
  - 3. We idolize gifts and neglect the Giver.
- 2. Our fight was against God in our sin. After we have been saved, our fight now is against sin in our God... in Christ.
  - 1. Context of this chapter- freedom from slavery to our flesh
- 3. Our hearts are marked by struggle.
  - 1. JC Ryle- "A true Christian is one who has not only peace of conscience, but war within."
  - 2. But maybe we are not at war? We are complacent in our sin.
- 4. Previous passage- works of the flesh (sinful nature that we're dying to in our salvation)
  - 1. Opposite of fruit
- 5. Fruit is the way God intended us to live. Fruit is what reflects God's character and heart... as we are His children and bear His image.

### B. Internal

- 1. It starts from the heart.
  - 1. Driving to/from the restaurant
    - a. Heart v. behavioral/circumstantial change
    - b. Fighting in marriage before/after money
  - 2. For us to bear fruit, we must have our root in Christ through our salvation.
    - a. This has been started through our resurrected hearts- born again, heart of stone/flesh, new spiritual DNA- children of God
    - b. Acorn and tree
  - 3. We cannot staple apples onto a tree and call it an apple tree. It has to be grown.
- 2. Matthew 12:15-20: **15** "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **16** You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? **17** So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. **18** A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. **19** Every tree that does not

bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

3. It's possible we are displaying "fruits," but we actually are naturally predisposed to show those fruits. This means that this fruit is superficial or counterfeit.

#### C. Singular

1. The word fruit is singular here. We need to take all the fruit together.
2. We cannot say that we are good at one fruit and not the others. We are as weak as our weakest "fruit."
  1. They are all tied together.
  2. For example, we may think we are self-controlled when we think about our discipline at work, but we are not self-controlled in our treatment of others. We are not kind or patient.
  3. We think that we are kind and gentle, but we just love to please people. We don't want to ruffle any feathers or have people not like us. It's the fear of man, which means that we are not being faithful and truly loving (with truth).

#### D. Gradual

1. In v. 16, we see that it is a walk. It's a journey.
2. We will not display the fruit of the Spirit all at once. It's a process.
  1. Paul Tripp's child- decades ago; planted a seed and didn't see fruit the next day
3. But if we're not displaying and growing in the Fruit of the Spirit, maybe it's because we do not have the Spirit, meaning we are not in Christ.

#### E. Outward

1. All of the fruit is outward. It is positioned toward other people.
2. This means that fruit is grown in community.
  1. Conflict or hardship usually means to leave a church; but it may be an opportunity to grow.

#### F. Grace-Centered

1. Paul is intentional with his wording.
  1. He uses "works" of the flesh and "fruit" of the Spirit.
  2. Work is an act and a striving on our own strength.
  3. Fruit is a work done in us by God.
2. Our growth in the faith is not mechanic but organic. It's not a work but it's God working in us. This means that there is no room for pride.

#### G. Inevitable

1. We believe in the perseverance of the saints. God will bring us to completion.
2. Though the process may be slow, it will happen.
3. Acorn in a stone coffin

### III. The Fount of Fruit

- A. This is all possible because of Christ.

1. Christ's life displayed the fruit perfectly, for our righteousness.
  2. His death was for the punishment of our flesh.
  3. His resurrection is the firstfruits of our resurrection.
  4. In His resurrection, we have resurrected hearts and can bear fruit.
- B. This is all possible because of God.
1. God's heart is filled with the fruit of the Spirit, and He is this way to us first. That's how we are able to display the fruit.
  2. He loved us first. He desired for us to enter into His joy. He made peace with us. He was patient with us first. He was kind to us first. He is good, and in His goodness, He has saved us. He was gentle with us first. He is faithful, even when we are not. He is self-controlled in His providence and discipline over us.
  3. Rowboat v. sailboat
    1. John 15:4- 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.
      - a. We grow in our walk with and love for Jesus. We spend time with Him.
      - b. We understand and experience all the ways Jesus displayed the Fruit perfectly, and He showed them to us through His life, death, and resurrection. The working and striving is finished. We live out of the overflow of that truth.
      - c. In John 15, it says that we are called to abide in His words (v. 7).