

## The Fruit of the Spirit - Sharing God with our world Love, Joy, Peace - the Inner fruit from God

### Galatians 5:13-26

Ever seen a tree and wondered what kind of tree it was?

**Matthew 7:15- 20** - Jesus told us how to tell

\*Producing fruit is referred to in 24 of the 27 book of the New Testament

**Comparison - Gifts of Spirit** - skills and abilities given to each but different

**Fruit of Spirit** - Attitudes and Actions to be developed by all

**Contrast - Galatians 5**

#### Works of the flesh

Destroy liberty and unity

Hinder walk with God

Keep us from inheritance

#### Fruit of Spirit

Develop liberty and unity

Indicate a growing relationship

Are part of our inheritance

One fruit or many - Dr. Bill Bright in his book, THE HOLY SPIRIT, presents a unique idea. He states that in reality there is a single fruit of the Spirit...LOVE.

This love is manifested in our attitudes and our actions. In other words:

**JOY IS LOVE'S STRENGTH**

**PEACE IS LOVE'S SECURITY.**

**PATIENCE IS LOVE'S ENDURANCE**

**KINDNESS IS LOVE'S CONDUCT.**

**GOODNESS IS LOVE'S CHARACTER**

**FAITHFULNESS IS LOVE'S CONFIDENCE.**

**GENTLENESS IS LOVE'S HUMILITY**

**SELF-CONTROL IS LOVE'S VICTORY.**

#### *Groupings*

**Love Joy Peace** - inner fruit from God and turning us Godward

**Patience Kindness Goodness** - fruit of relationship toward others

**Faithfulness Gentleness Self-Control** - fruit guiding our own lives

### I. Love (agape)

**A. Definition - self-sacrificing and unchanging**

*Hollywood - feeling or emotion -- "fall into or out of"*

*Bible - choice or will - "love your enemies", "love one another"*

*Really a choice and an action - God's love in us*

**B. The source is God Himself**

God is love **I John 4:8**

Our love comes from our relationship with Him

**Ephesians 3:16-17**

**C. Scriptural descriptions**

**I Corinthians 13:4-7** - read

**Romans 13:10** - fulfillment of the law

### II. Joy (chara)

**A. Definition** -inner rejoicing that abides despite outer circumstances

\*Joy and rejoice used over 300 times in Bible

**B. The source is Christ Himself**

Jesus calls it His joy in us **John 15:11**

This joy cannot be taken by man **John 16:22**

It is made full in prayer **John 16:25**

**C. Scriptural descriptions**

It is our strength in the Lord -**Nehemiah 8:10**

It is found in the presence of the Lord -- **Psalm 16:11**

It comes from knowing our names are written in heaven

**Luke 10:20**

### III. Peace (eirene)

**A. Definition** - inner quietness and trust in God's sovereignty

Often seen in connection with joy. **Romans 14:17**

**B. The source is the indwelling of the Spirit**

**John 14:27** It is the gift of Christ to us

**John 16:33** It is despite trouble in the world

**C. Scriptural descriptions**

Begins with peace with God **Romans 5:1**

From God with have peace in us **Philippians 4:7-9**

Brings peace with others **Ephesians 2:14-15**

How do we develop the Fruit of the Spirit **John 15:1-11**

1. Abide in God's love (as a branch of the vine)

His words (the Scriptures) must live in us

Be firmly attached to His body the Church

2. Allow the Spirit of Christ to rule (control) your life

His Spirit must prune (remove that which is not bearing fruit)

He determines the harvest

3. Act - live out the fruit in daily life.

It is natural and will develop naturally

But it is not an option

You will know a tree by its fruit

Why should we produce the Fruit of the Spirit?

Fruit - delicious to eat

But in reality it is always connected with reproduction

Is your life drawing others to Christ or repelling them from Him?