

Walking by the Spirit The Fruit of the Spirit

Week 1

Discussion Questions

- What is your most vivid spring break memory, as a child or an adult?
- How would you explain what it means to walk in the spirit of anything? (spirit of joy, victory, fear, anger, etc.)



We are "In Christ"	Christ is "in us"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christ is our representative. - Christ "covers us" - It is forensic (judicial) - 2 Cor. 5:21 - Romans 5:12-21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hard to explain - We have a new identity - We have a new nature - 1 John 4:4 - Ephesians 3:14-21; 4:13-16

2 Corinthians 3:4-18

⁴Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

⁷Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, ⁸will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? ⁹For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. ¹⁰Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. ¹¹For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶But when one^[c] turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord^[d] is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,^[e] are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.^[f] For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Footnotes

- c. [2 Corinthians 3:16](#) Greek *he*
- d. [2 Corinthians 3:17](#) Or *this Lord*
- e. [2 Corinthians 3:18](#) Or *reflecting the glory of the Lord*
- f. [2 Corinthians 3:18](#) Greek *from glory to glory*

Union with Christ is not an idea to be understood, but a new reality to be lived, through faith.

-Wilbourne, Rankin. Union with Christ: The Way to Know and Enjoy God (p. 54).

Galatians 5:13-26

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole

law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy,^[a] drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do^[a] such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Footnotes

- a. [Galatians 5:4](#) Or *counted righteous*
- b. [Galatians 5:11](#) Or *brothers and sisters*; also verse [13](#)
- c. [Galatians 5:11](#) Greek *proclaim*
- d. [Galatians 5:21](#) Some manuscripts add *murder*
- e. [Galatians 5:21](#) Or *make a practice of doing*

Discussion Questions

Galatians 5:13-26

- As a table: What jumps out at you from this passage?
- As a table: What does Paul say are the two “natures” at work in every Christian?
- As a table: What strikes you about how Paul describes the Spirit’s work in the life of a Christian?

Walking by the Spirit

A. The nature of the process of change by the Spirit

1. Cultivation

Paul speaks of the “works” of the flesh and the “fruit of the spirit.” One requires

toil, the other cultivation. Sanderson notes, “‘Work’ involves labor, and yet yields no benefit. ‘Fruit-bearing’ requires cultivation, but the fruit itself comes from a growth-process which is not directly the result of labor.”¹

2. What about weeds and counterfeit fruit?

We know that the fruit of peace has a “weed” of strife, but it also has a counterfeit fruit of numbness or carelessness. That’s not peace but it may “look” like peace for a season.

B. The nature of the fruit of the Spirit.

1. One
2. Interdependent
3. Maturity

This list begins with love because from it flow the rest of the fruit. It is as it were, the seed and the center of the fruit leading the rest of the growth.

Agape love -

1. Is an action

Love is an action you do, not a ditch you fall into. “Love is not essentially a feeling of affection but a way of behaving, and if it starts as a feeling, it must become more than a feeling if it is truly to be love. Love does something; it gives; that is how it established its identity.”²

2. It serves
3. It serves

“Love in the Spirit takes the form as a habit of self-giving service in which some element of one’s life is constantly being laid down and let go for someone else’s sake.”³

What it is not – self-protection, using or abusing people for your own benefit.

Artificial version – limited love or selfish affection

Discussion Questions

Looking at 1 John 4:7-12

¹ Sanderson, p. 43.

² Packer, p. 114.

³ Packer, p. 80.

- As a table: If love defines who God is, and love is the seed of the fruit of the Spirit how does that change the way I should live?
- As a table: How does counterfeit love show up in your life?
- As a table: How does knowing love is the fruit of the Spirit give you hope?

Application

- The love of God actually dwells in you, be encouraged.
- The love of God makes Christians different in a culture of anger and counterfeit loves.
- What, or who, is the love of God calling you to move towards this week?