

**Text:** Gal 5.22-23

**Proposition:**

My hope is to get through three aspects of the Fruit of the Spirit tonight. Let's not forget where we are, however, let's start again with Tom Constable's outline for Galatians:

- I. Introduction 1:1–10
- II. Personal defense of Paul's gospel 1:11–2:21
- III. Theological affirmation of salvation by faith 3:1–4:31
  - A. Vindication of the doctrine ch. 3
  - B. Clarification of the doctrine ch. 4
- IV. Practical application to Christian living 5:1–6:10
  - A. Balance in the Christian life ch. 5
    - 1. Living without the Law 5:1–12
    - 2. Living without license 5: 13-15
    - 3. Living by the Holy Spirit 5:16–26<sup>1</sup>

We are now working on the general theme, "Living by the Holy Spirit."

Let's not forget that the whole point of this section is to encourage our way of life. It is not meant as an educational tool for helping us understand *intellectually* what is the fruit of the Spirit. The quote I gave you the last couple of weeks from Timothy George is very apt on this point:

**Timothy George:** "we should sit back and contemplate the beauty of this image rather than overinterpreting and analyzing it to death"<sup>2</sup>

We also should remember, as Ryrie noted, that the fruit of the Spirit is the display of Jesus Christ in our own life. This is the goal of the Spirit-walk, to be like Jesus.

So far we looked at: love, joy, peace, and patience.

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<sup>1</sup> Tom Constable, *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), Galatians, Introduction, Outline.

<sup>2</sup> Timothy George, *Galatians*, The New American Commentary (Nashville, Tenn: B&H, 1994), 400.

# I. The fruit of the Spirit is kindness

## A. Defining the term

1. Constable: “benevolence and graciousness”<sup>3</sup>
2. Campbell, *BKCNT*, “**Kindness** (*chrēstotēs*) is benevolence in action such as God demonstrated toward men.”<sup>4</sup>

## B. The term used in history

1. The Gks used it in Stoic philosophy to describe relations between men
  - a. The kindness of man to man in a humanitarian sense
  - b. The kindness existing between man and wife in a happy marriage
2. The LXX translators used it frequently in an translating a non-biblical text, the Psalms of Solomon

“Psalms of Solomon makes ample use of the word χρηστότης [kindness] ... It distinguishes sharply between the niggardly and seldom practised goodness of men and the χρηστότης of God.”<sup>5</sup>

## 3. The New Testament develops this further

- a. It is the kindness of God in salvation (Eph 2.7)

Ep 2.7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- b. It is the kindness of God that Christians ought to display in their lives (Gal 5.22, Eph 4.32, Col 3.12)

<sup>3</sup> Constable, *Expository Notes*, Gal 5.22.

<sup>4</sup> Donald K. Campbell, “Galatians,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983), 608.

<sup>5</sup> Konrad Weiss, “Χρηστός, Χρηστότης, Χρηστεύομαι, Χρηστολογία,” in *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, ed. Gerhard Kittel, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Gerhard Friedrich, vol. 9 (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964), 490.

Ep 4.32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Col 3.12 ¶ So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

### C. The term illustrated

1. You recall the parable of the unjust servant who would not forgive his fellow servant
  - a. His lord forgave him a massive debt
  - b. Yet he, immediately after, refused to forgive a much smaller (though significant debt)

The point is, the one who receives kindness ought to also bestow kindness.

In this case, the first servant was a thoroughly nasty sort, but his Lord forgave him his debt anyway.

2. The story of Jesus and the woman who washed his feet in Simon's house also displays the Lord's kindness (Lk 7.37-50)
  - a. The Lord kindly bestowed his forgiveness, though she was a disreputable woman
  - b. Simon betrayed his unkindness, though he was a righteous Pharisee

## II. The fruit of the Spirit is goodness

### A. Goodness defined

1. **Campbell**, *BKCNT*, "**Goodness** (*agathōsynē*) may be thought of both as an uprightness of soul and as an action reaching out to others to do good even when it is not deserved."<sup>6</sup>
2. **George**, "'Goodness' is a rare word found only four times in the New Testament (and only in Paul). It conveys the idea of benevolence

<sup>6</sup> Campbell, "Galatians in BKCNT," 608.

and generosity toward someone else, a going the second mile when such magnanimity is not required.”<sup>7</sup>

3. But **Trench** distinguishes goodness from kindness (see above), with goodness being sharper, and more zealous. “A man might display his ἀγαθωσύνη, his zeal for goodness and truth, in rebuking, correcting, chastising. Christ was not working otherwise than in the spirit of this grace when He drove the buyers and sellers out of the temple (Matt. 21:13); or when He uttered all those terrible words against the Scribes and Pharisees (Matt. 23.)”<sup>8</sup>

#### B. Trench’s corrective aids our application

1. There is a tendency to think of Christlikeness as a warm, soft, kindness that always smiles on everyone
2. When Jesus drove the money changers out of the temple, we would not say he displayed kindness, but he did display goodness
3. Now, let’s not say, “well, this let’s us off the hook!”
  - a. Goodness may be willing to correct and rebuke the stumbling brother
  - b. But Goodness also is willing to reach out to someone with whom you have no relationship, or obligation, but decide to do good for them anyway

Going the extra mile, for example

### III. The fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness

#### A. The word here is very familiar, mostly translated “faith”

1. In the Bible, it means “the faith,” that is, the apostolic doctrine (see Gal 1.23)
2. It also means “saving faith” (see, for example, Gal 3.2, many more)
3. Here it means “faithfulness” or “integrity”

<sup>7</sup> George, *Galatians*, 403.

<sup>8</sup> Richard Chenevix Trench, *Synonyms of the New Testament* (London: Macmillan and Co., 1880), 234.

“As an aspect of the fruit of the Spirit, *pistis* has yet a further meaning: faithfulness, fidelity, that is, the quality of being true, trustworthy, and reliable in all one’s dealings with others.”<sup>9</sup>

2 Tim 2.2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

## B. Illustrating faithfulness

### A series of questions examining faithfulness

“If your car starts once every three tries, is it reliable?

“If your paperboy skips delivery every Monday and Thursday, is he trustworthy?

“If you don’t go to work once or twice a month, are you a loyal employee?

“If your refrigerator stops working for a day or two every now and then, do you say, “Oh, well, it works most of the time”?

“If your water heater provides an icy-cold shower every now and then, is it dependable?

“If you miss a couple of loan payments every year, does the bank say, “Ten out of twelve isn’t bad”?

“If you fail to worship God one or two Sundays a month, would you expect to be called a faithful Christian?”<sup>10</sup>

To the church in Smyrna, the Lord Jesus said:

Rev 2.10 ‘Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. **Be faithful until death**, and I will give you the crown of life.

<sup>9</sup> George, *Galatians*, 403.

<sup>10</sup> “Faithfulness” in Michael P. Green, *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching*, Revised edition (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989).

### C. Faithfulness means

1. People can count on you
2. Your job will be done, whether people are watching or not
3. Your walk with Christ will be consistent, quiet, steady

### Conclusion:

When we think of our Lord Jesus, can we think in terms of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith?

When others think of you, can they think these same things?