

The Fruit of the Spirit

Nine lessons
on reflecting
the image of
Christ



LEADER'S
GUIDE

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THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

WINTER / SPRING SEMESTER

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The Fruit of the Spirit

Introduction

Reflecting the
Image of Christ

Galatians 5:22-23

General Biblical Statements

- Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."
- John 15:4-5, 8 - "As the branch cannot bear **fruit** of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much **fruit**, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ... My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much **fruit**, and so prove to be My disciples."
- Matthew 7:17-20 - "So every good tree bears **good fruit**, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce **good fruit**. Every tree that does not bear **good fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their **fruits**."
- 2 Peter 1:3-10 - "Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply **moral excellence**, and in your moral excellence, **knowledge**, and in your knowledge, **self-control**, and in your self-control, **perseverance**, and in your perseverance, **godliness**, and in your godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and in your brotherly kindness, **love**. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you"
- Colossians 3:12,14 - "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience** ... Beyond all these things put on **love**"

Notes

Little fruit = young or immature believer, or something deficient with my relationship with God?

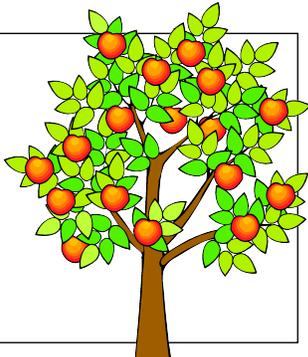
No fruit = Not saved?

"abide" = permanent attachment

"bad tree thrown into fire" = judgment of the unbeliever?

"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits"

Matthew 7:19-20



Notes

The Fruit of the Spirit are relational:

- Between me & God
- Between me & others

General Principles

1 Christ-Likeness.

- The fruit of the Spirit may be defined as: [1] The Holy Spirit's **inner renovation** in the Christian; [2] to restore the **image of God**, and [3] the truest measure of **Christ-likeness**.
- Ephesians 5:1-2 - "be **imitators of God**, as beloved children; and walk in love, just **as Christ** also loved you"
- Colossians 3:10 - "put on the new self who is being renewed ... according to the **image of the One** who created him"

2 Commanded.

- Colossians 3:12,14 - "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on** a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience ... Beyond all these things **put on love**"

3 Contrasted.

- In Galatians 5, the works of the flesh (v. 19-21) are contrasted with the fruit of the Spirit (v. 22-23).



STOP & THINK

What does the contrast between "works of the flesh" and "fruit of the Spirit" teach us?

3 - WORKS OF THE FLESH:

- **Source - The flesh (Natural).**
- **Exhausting - Works deplete energy.**

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:

- **Source - Holy Spirit (Supernatural).**
- **Energizing - The Spirit fills/refreshes.**

Fruit Versus Gifts of the Spirit

1 The Fruit of True Salvation.

- The fruit not gifts of the Spirit are the **evidence** of true salvation (Matt. 7:19-23; John 15:2, 6; 2 Peter 1:10).

2 Measure of Maturity.

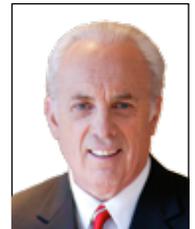
- The fruit of the Spirit, not the gifts of the Spirit, are the best measure of Christian maturity. God wants spiritual fruits, not religious nuts (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

3 All Are to be Cultivated.

- No Christian has all of the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:11), but every Christian is responsible to cultivate all the fruit of the Spirit (Col. 3:12, 14)

"Salvation is not verified by a past act, but by present fruitfulness."

John MacArthur
1939-Present



Notes

- **2 - The Corinthian church had an unbalanced view of the gifts and were very immature (1 Cor. 3:1-2).**

The Means of Their Development

1 Holy Spirit.

- They are called the fruit of the Spirit, because the **Holy Spirit** is the only One that can produce them in the Christian. (Galatians 5:22-23)

2 Human Effort.

- Though the Holy Spirit is the only source, the development of these fruit requires **human effort**. (Colossians 3:10, 12, 14)
- Galatians 5:16 - "But I say, **walk** by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."
- Galatians 5:25 - "If we live by the Spirit, let us also **walk** by the Spirit."

3 Trials.

- Difficult circumstances and people are necessary for the fruit of the Spirit to grow in the Christian and become evident. God orchestrates **trials** in the Christian's life to put the fruit of the Spirit on display and to show the authenticity of His work in His children.
- James 1:2-4 - "Consider it all **joy**, my brethren, when you encounter various **trials**, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- John 15:2 - "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He **prunes** it so that it may **bear more fruit**."
- John 15:8 - "My Father is **glorified** by this, that you **bear much fruit**, and so prove to be My disciples."
- "The fruit of the Spirit grows in the womb of adversity"
- Author unknown

Notes

2 - We are NOT PASSIVE in the growth of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Action verbs:

- "walk in the Spirit" - Gal. 5:16, 25
- "put on love" - Col. 3:10, 12, 14



STOP & THINK

How does the Christian "walk in the Spirit"?

Psalm 66:18 - **Confess all known sin**

Matthew 16:24 - **Unconditional surrender**

John 15:4-5 - **Absolute dependence**

Notes

3 - John 15:2 - Pruning causes a "wound," but results in more fruit.

God prunes us through trials: difficult people & circumstances

The Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 1

Love

The Greatest Commandment
& Goal of Christian Education

Matthew 22:36-40

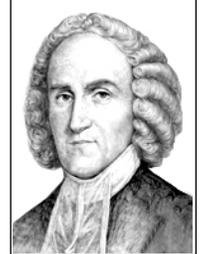
General Principles

1 “Fruit” is Singular.

- Greek: *karpos* or “fruit” in Galatians 5:22 is **singular**.
- Galatians 5:22-23 - “But the fruit **[not fruits]** of the Spirit is love ...”
- Ancient and modern commentators agree that love is the root of all of the fruits in Galatians 5:22-23.

“All the fruits of the Spirit which we are to lay weight upon as evidence of grace, are summed up in Christian love; because this is the sum of all grace.”

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)



2 Three Greek Words for “Love”.

- Eros. Romantic or sexual love.
- Phileo. Brotherly affection, friendship.
- Agape. Godly or spiritual love.
- Galatians 5:22-23 - “the fruit the Spirit is **[agape]** ...”

3 Definition.

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - “Love **[agape]** is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails”

4 The Spirit is the Only Source.

- Romans 5:5 - “the love **[agape]** of God has been shed abroad within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”
- 1 John 4:19 - “We love **[agape]**, because He first loved **[agape]** us.”

Notes

1 - One fruit (singular): LOVE
all the others are various expressions of love, e.g. “love is patient” etc.

3 - Agape - more than an emotion, sacrificial, not self-serving.

3 - Love “does not take into account a wrong suffered” - i.e. it doesn’t keep mental lists of past offenses.

4 - God’s (agape) love can only be produced in a regenerated heart.

[Agape love’s] “most distinguishing feature is a lack of self-interest. It proceeds out of a heart of care and concern for others. It is characterized by fidelity, faithfulness; it is the love of permanent commitment.”

R. C. Sproul (1939-Present)



The Royal Law

1 The Great Commandment.

- Matthew 22:36-40 - "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?' And He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the **great** and **foremost** commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."
- James 2:8 - "If, however, you are fulfilling the **royal law** according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing well."
- 1 Corinthians 13:13 - "But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the **greatest** of these is love."

2 Goal of All Christian Education.

- 1 Timothy 1:5 - "The **goal** of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

3 Special Love for Christians.

- Romans 12:10 - "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; **give preference to** one another in honor"
- Galatians 6:10 - "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and **especially** to those who are of the household of the faith."
- 1 John 3:14 - "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we **love the brethren**. He who does not love abides in death."

4 Love for the Unloving.

- Luke 6:27-33 - "**love your enemies**, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ... If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same."



STOP & THINK

Why do you think the command to love your neighbor is called the "royal law"?

- **It is the King's law.**
- **It reflects the King's character.**
- **It the family likeness of the royal family. (The King's kids - YOU!)**

Notes

- 1 - All the commandments fulfilled by loving God & neighbor:**
 - **Love God - 1st Tablet (1-4).**
 - **Love Neighbor - 2nd Tablet (5-10).**
- 2 - Goal ≠ knowledge, works, religious sacrifice - Read 1 Cor. 13:1-3**
- 3 - Is it right to show preferential treatment to God's people? YES
God does - Psalm 5:12, 103:11, 17**
- 4 - A huge part of our Christian testimony.**

Agape Love is Active

- James 2:15-16 - "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?"
- 1 John 3:17 - "But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?"
- 1 John 4:20 - "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen."
- John 13:35 - "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."
- John 14:15 - "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."
- David Powlison - **God's love is active**. He decided to love you when He could have justly condemned you. He's involved. He's merciful, not simply tolerant. He hates sin, yet pursues sinners by name. God is so committed to forgiving and changing you that He sent Jesus to die for you. He welcomes the poor in spirit with a shout and a feast. God is vastly patient and relentlessly persevering as He intrudes into your life. God's love actively does you good. His love is full of blood, sweat, tears, and cries. He suffered for you. He fights for you, defending the afflicted. He fights with you pursuing you in powerful tenderness so that He can change you. He's jealous, not detached. His sort of empathy and sympathy speaks out, with words of truth to set you free from sin and misery. He will discipline you as proof that He loves you. God Himself comes to live in you, pouring out His Holy Spirit in your heart, so that you will know Him. He puts out power and energy. God's love has hate in it too: hatred for evil, whether done to you or by you. God's love demands that you respond to it: by believing, trusting, obeying, giving thanks with a joyful heart, working out your salvation with fear, delighting in the Lord." - *Seeing With New Eyes*, p. 165

Notes

Actions speaks louder than words:

• **True (agape) love is more than an emotion.**

• **It is a catalyst for action.**

"Love is very much a matter of actions rather than emotions. However, although this emphasis on acts of love is certainly necessary, we can sometimes give the impression that love doesn't involve any emotion – that it is entirely an act of the will, of one's duty, regardless of how one feels. We can even promote the 'I can love him but I can't like him' type of attitude. The Bible does not support such an unbalanced concept of love... fervently, fondly, and affectionately (are used in the Bible) to describe the love Christians ought to have for one another... Obviously such a fervency of spirit cannot substitute for loving actions, but surely it should accompany them. We dare not settle for less."

Jerry Bridges (1929-2016)

The Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 2

Joy

A Countenance That
Matches Our Testimony

Nehemiah 8:10

Joy is a **Communicable** Attribute of God

1 The Father: **Intrinsic Joy.**

- Jeremiah 9:24 - "I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I **delight** in these things,' declares the Lord."
- 1 Timothy 6:15 - "He is the **blessed** and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords"
- "blessed" from Greek *makar* - "happy"

2 The Son: **Incarnation of Joy.**

- Hebrews 1:9 - Jesus is "anointed with the **oil of joy**" above all others.
- John 15:11 - Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that **My joy** may remain in you, and that your joy may be full".

3 The Spirit: **Instrument of Joy.**

- Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is ... **joy**"
- Isaiah 61:3 - God gives His people "beauty for ashes, the **oil of joy** for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."

4 Man: **Invited into God's Joy.**

- Matthew 25:21 - "Well done, good and faithful servant ... **enter into the joy of your master!**"
- Psalms 16:11 - "In Thy presence is fulness of **joy**"



STOP & THINK

What is a communicable attribute of God?

**An attribute in which man can share
and reflect to a lesser degree.**

Notes

1 - Jeremiah 9:24

- **God rejoices, "delights" in virtue.**
- **God is the epitome of all virtue.**
- **Hence, God delights in Himself, because He is perfect.**

**From all eternity God is a Trinity of joy.
(See Piper, below)**

God's Joy

- In Himself
Jeremiah 9:24
- In His Works
Genesis 1:31
Psalms 115:3
Isaiah 46:10
- In His Son
Isaiah 42:1
Matthew 3:17
- In the Cross
Isaiah 53:10-11
- In His People
Psalms 149:4
Isaiah 62:5
Jeremiah 32:41
Zephaniah 3:17

"From all eternity God has been supremely happy in the fellowship of the Trinity. From this inexhaustible fountain of self-replenishing joy flows the freedom of God in all His sovereign work, creating the universe, spreading His fame, choosing a people, and bruising His Son."

John Piper, *The Pleasures of God*, p. 18



Man's Chief End

1 To Glorify God.

- 1 Corinthians 10:31 - "Whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God**"
- 1 Peter 4:11 - "whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that **in all things God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ"

2 To Enjoy God.

- Psalm 32:11 - "**Be glad** in the Lord and **rejoice**, you righteous ones; and **shout for joy**, all you who are upright in heart."
- Psalm 37:4 - "**delight** yourself in the Lord"
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - "**Rejoice** always ... for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

3 Biblical Joy = Enjoying God.

- Psalm 70:4 - "Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad **in You**"
- Isaiah 61:10 - "I will rejoice greatly **in the Lord**, my soul will exult **in my God**; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness." (cf. Habbakkuk 3:18)
- Philippians 4:4 - "Rejoice **in the Lord** always; again I will say, rejoice!"

4 Different From Happiness.

A. Happiness is based on variables.

- Happiness is **dependent** on health, job, finances, weather, traffic, body-chemistry, finances, possessions, and the approval or disapproval of people, etc.

B. Joy is based on a constant ➔ GOD!

- 1 Peter 1:3-9 - "**in Him**, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory"



STOP & THINK

If man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, what is God's chief end?

God's chief end is to glorify Himself & enjoy Himself forever, e.g. His own perfect character and works.

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

John Piper, *Desiring God*, p. 50



Notes

Westminster Catechism, Q. 1

Q. What is man's chief end?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God AND enjoy Him forever.

John Piper's Amendment

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God BY enjoying Him forever.



Joy = Enjoying God

- In the Bible, the Fruit of the Spirit of joy specifically applies to enjoying God.
- That is, enjoying His Person and works.

Prerequisites to Joy

1 You Must be Born-Again.

- John 7:38-39 - "He who **believes in Me**, 'From his innermost being will flow **rivers of living water**.' But this He spoke of the **Spirit**" (cf. 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13)

2 Daily Repentance.

- Acts 3:19 - "**Repent** and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of **refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord"
- Ephesians 5:18 - "be filled with the Spirit"

3 Trust & Obey.

- Genesis 4:7 - "If you **do what is right**, will not your countenance be uplifted?"

4 A, B, C's of Cultivating Joy.

A. A-C-T-S of Prayer - Psa. 16:11
 B. Bible Study - Psa. 119:162
 C. Christian Fellowship - Psa. 16:3

5 Faith in the Sufficiency of God's Grace during Trials.

- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - "I implored the Lord three times that [the thorn in my flesh] might leave me. And He has said to me, "**My grace is sufficient** for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

6 The Choice to Rejoice.

- Isaiah 61:10 - "**I will rejoice** greatly in the Lord, **my soul will exult** in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation" (cf. Habakkuk 3:17-18)

Notes

1 - The Spirit, who is the ONLY source of joy, ONLY indwells the believer.

2 - Ephesians 5:18 (Left)

Greek: Present Active Indicative, "keep on being filled with the Spirit", i.e. can lose this filling through sin. Confession & repentance clears the "log jam" so that the river can flow.

6 - Not by sheer will power or resolutions; But not Independent of our will either.



The Pursuit of Happiness?

- The American dream is "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness".
- But the Christian's goal is the pursuit of God & godliness (Matt. 6:33), through which joy is made full (John 15:10-11).

Joy is Integral to Outreach

1 Joy is Attractive.

- Isaiah 53:2 - Jesus had “no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.”
- Hebrews 1:9 - Jesus was “anointed with the oil of joy” more than any other.
- Mark 3:7-8 - Multitudes followed Jesus & saw true joy.

2 You Represent Christ.

- 2 Corinthians 5:20 - “we are ambassadors for Christ”
- To faithfully represent Christ, who is the epitome of joy, His ambassadors must be a joyful reflection of Him.

3 Joy Strengthens Our Testimony (especially during trials).

- Nehemiah 8:10 - “the joy of the Lord is your strength.”
- 1 Peter 1:3-7 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope ... In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials”
- Romans 8:28 - The secret to rejoicing during trials.

4 No Joy, No Inquiries.

- 1 Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence”

5 Evangelism is Not Just Words.

- 1 Corinthians 2:4 - “my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power”

“I desire the dejected Christian to consider, that by his heavy and uncomfortable life, he seems to the world to accuse God and His service, as if he openly called Him a rigorous, hard, unacceptable Master, and His work as a sad unpleasant thing ... If you see a servant always sad, will you not think that he has a master that displeases him? ... You were born and born-again for God’s honor; and will you thus dishonor Him before the world? What do you (in their eyes in) but dispraise Him by your very countenance and carriage?”

- Puritan Richard Baxter (1674)

Notes

2 -Definition: AMBASSADOR

A diplomat sent by one country as its representative to a foreign country.

- Our “country”/ citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20)

- We represent Christ, our King (Rev. 19:16)

- The “foreign country” is this world to which we reside as aliens (1 Pet. 2:11)



STOP & THINK

What might be the “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” to which Paul refers?

In part, the Fruit of the Spirit, e.g. JOY!

Seven (More) Reasons for Joy

1 You've Been Redeemed!

- Ephesians 2:4-7 - "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His **great love** with which He loved us, even when **we were dead** in our transgressions, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) ... so that **in the ages to come** He might show the **surpassing riches of His grace in kindness** toward us in Christ Jesus."

2 Your Purpose is Realized!

- Man's Chief End - To **glorify & enjoy** God forever.

3 God Said So.

- Philippians 4:4 - "**Rejoice** in the Lord always!"

4 God is Glorified.

- Isaiah 61:3 - He gave me "the oil of **joy** for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness ... **that He might be glorified.**" (KJV)

5 Believers are Encouraged.

- Psalm 34:2 - "My soul will make its boast in the Lord; **the humble will hear it and rejoice.**"
- Psalm 40:9 - "I have proclaimed glad tidings ... **in the great congregation**"

6 It is a Testimony to the World.

- Psalm 57:9 - "I will give thanks to You, O Lord, **among the peoples**; I will sing praises to You **among the nations**" (cf. Psalm 96:3)

7 God Wants You to Experience the Greatest Joy: Himself!

- Psalm 16:11 - "**In Thy presence is fulness of joy**; in Thy right hand there are pleasures forever."

Notes

1 - God's Redemptive Purpose:

- **To show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ. For the rest of eternity !!!**

2 - Man's Created Purpose:

- **To glorify God by enjoying Him.**

3 - Imperative, i.e. a commandment!

4 - Our joy in the Lord glorifies God.

5 - Joy sweetens our relationships.

- **Even one joyful heart can make a church a little sweeter.**

6 - See page 13, "Joy is Integral to Outreach"



Christian, you have every reason to rejoice in the Lord always!

The Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 3

Peace

With God, Of God
& With Others

Philippians 4:6-9

Man's **Search** for Peace **Apart** From God

1 Pax Romana?

- Latin for "Roman peace", 206 years: 27 BC to 180 AD.
- Roman peace = Compliance or the sword.

2 Mankind's Inglorious History.

- Since 36 BC, there have been nearly 15,000 wars.
- Before World War II, the world averaged 2.61 new wars every year. Since World War II, despite man's efforts for world peace, there have been an average of 3 new wars every year.
- The New York Times declared, "Peace is a fable."

3 Treating Symptoms Not Causes.

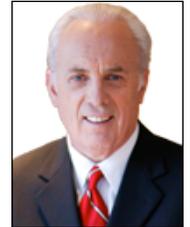
- The use of psychotropic drugs by adult Americans increased 22 percent from 2001 to 2010, with one in five adults now taking at least one psychotropic medication. In 2010, Americans spent more than \$16 billion on antipsychotics, \$11 billion on antidepressants. Antidepressants are the second most commonly prescribed drug in the United States
- One website compares 83 Anti-Anxiety (Psychotropic) medications including Cymbalta, Paxil, Prozac, Ritalin, Valium, Xanax, Zoloft, Zyan.
- "It's very attractive on different levels to take a pill to solve your problems, but we haven't gotten to a point where a pill alone can resolve most people's depression or anxiety." (American Psychological Association)

4 Trouble in the World, Peace in Christ.

- John 16:33 - Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, so that **in Me you may have peace**. In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

"Most people's pursuit of peace is only an attempt to get away from problems. That is why people seek peace through alcohol, drugs, or other forms of escapism. The fact is, apart from God, there is no real peace in this world."

John MacArthur (1939-Present)



Notes

1 - "Roman Peace" Included:

- Three Jewish-Roman Wars, 66-73, 115-117, 132-136 AD
- Roman-Parthian War, 58-63, 113
- Roman-Briton War, 60 AD

2 - Death Total from Wars:

AD: 33 Wars w/over 1 M deaths:

- WWII (1939-1945) - 58M
- Mongol Conquest (1206-1337) - 52M
- Taiping Civil War (1850-1864) - 45M
- Chinese Wars (220-280) - 38M
- WWI (1914-1918) - 20M

3 - Only the Christian can experience any kind of peace - Isaiah 48:22



No Christ, No Peace
Know Christ, Know Peace

God's Triune Peace

1 Father: "God of Peace".

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 - "Now may the **God of peace** Himself sanctify you entirely"
- Romans 15:33 - "Now the **God of peace** be with you all. Amen."
- 2 Thessalonians 3:16 - "Now may the **Lord of peace** Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!"

"God is at all times at perfect peace, without any discord within Himself. He is never under stress, worried, anxious, fearful, unsure, or threatened. There are no surprises for His omniscience, no changes for His immutability, no threats to His sovereignty, no doubts to cloud His wisdom."

John MacArthur (1939-Present)



2 Son: "Prince of Peace".

- Isaiah 9:6-7 - "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace**. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace."
- John 14:27 - "**Peace** I leave with you; **My peace** I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."
- John 16:33 - These things I have spoken to you, so that **in Me you may have peace**. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
- Romans 1:7 - "Grace to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (10x)

Notes

True peace only available:

1 - FROM God the Father.

2 - IN Christ.

3 - THRU the Holy Spirit.

3 Holy Spirit: Conduit of Peace.

- Galatians 5:22 - "the fruit of the Spirit is ... **peace**"
- The Spirit is likened to a dove, a symbol of **peace**.



- Matthew 3:16 - "After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the **Spirit** of God descending as a **dove**"

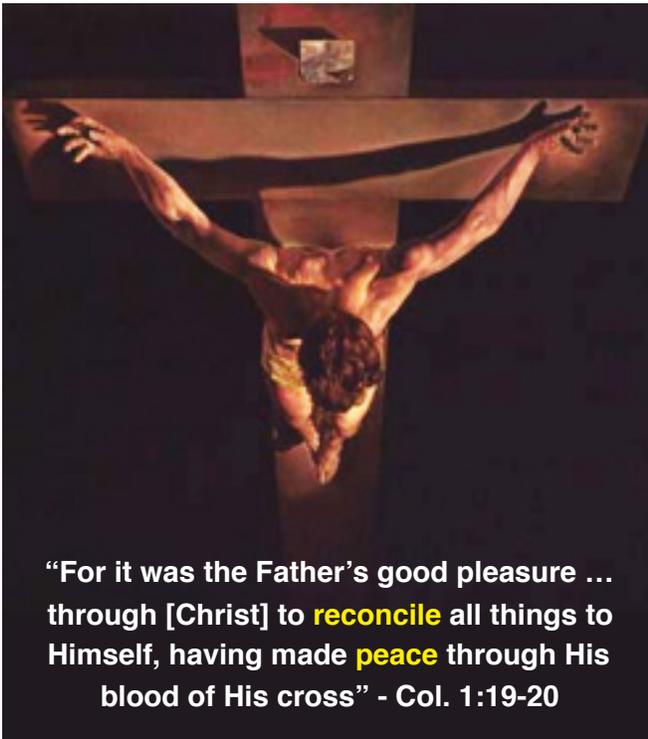


In the Essence of His Being, God within Himself, is a Trinity of Peace.

Peace **With** & **Of** God

1 Peace **with** God: Reconciliation.

- Romans 5:1 - "Therefore having been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"
- Romans 5:9 - "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be **saved from the wrath of God** through Him."



2 Peace **of** God: Calm in the Storm.

- Philippians 4:6-7 - "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which **surpasses all comprehension**, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"
- Col. 3:15 - "Let the peace of Christ rule in your **hearts**"
- Isaiah 26:3 - "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee"

STOP & THINK

How does the Bible describe the Non-Christian's relationship with God?

Psalm 7:11 (KJV) - Angry

Isaiah 59:2 - Separation

Romans 1:18 - Wrath

Romans 8:7 - Hostile

Colossians 1:21 - Alienated & hostile

"The war is over. The alienation and divine displeasure toward us because of our sin have been removed. We are no longer objects of wrath. We have peace with God whether we realize it or not. However, to the extent that we understand and believe the truth regarding justification, we will experience a subjective peace – that is, a sense of peace within our souls."

Jerry Bridges (1929-2016)

STOP & THINK

In Philippians 4:6-9, (Left), in what ways does God's peace "surpass all comprehension"?

In Colossians 3:15 (Left), to what does the word "heart" refer?

= {

1. Mind

2. Will

3. Emotions

Essential Elements

1 Reconciliation.

- Romans 5:1 - "Therefore having been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"

2 Right Thinking.

- Philippians 4:8-9 - "whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is of **good repute**, if there is any **excellence** and if anything worthy of **praise**, think on these things ... and the God of peace will be with you."
- Isaiah 26:3 - "Thou wilt keep him in **perfect peace**, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee." (KJV)

3 Righteous Living.

- Psalms 119:165 - "Those who love Your law have great **peace**"
- Isaiah 32:17 - "And the work of righteousness will be **peace**, and the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever."
- Isaiah 48:18 - "If only you had paid attention to My commandments! Then your **peace** would have been like a river."

4 Recognize God's Presence.

- Psalms 23:4 - "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for **Thou art with me**"
- Psalms 73:28 - "But as for me, the **nearness** of God is my good; I have made the Lord God my refuge"
- Psalms 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, a very **present help** in [times of] trouble."

5 Reliance & Trust in the Lord.

- Romans 15:13 - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and **peace** as you trust in Him." (NIV)

Philippians 4:8-9



THRPLGREP

Whatever is:

- T**True
- H**Honorable
- R**Right
- P**Pure
- L**Lovely
- G**Good **R**epute
- E**Excellence
- P**Praiseworthy

*"think on these things and the God of **peace** will be with you"*

Notes

1 - Peace with God, crowning fruit of reconciliation.

2 - Take anxious thoughts captive (2 Cor. 10:5).

3 - Peace comes by maintaining a clear conscience, thru constantly confessing sin and striving to live a righteous life (1 John 3:21).

4 - Peace comes from knowing that God is always near.

5 - Peace comes by trust that God is working everything out (Rom. 8:28).

The Gospel of Peace

1 Message of Peace.

- Ephesians 6:15 - “shod your feet with the preparation of the **Gospel of peace**”
- Isaiah 52:7 - “How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces **peace** and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”
- Acts 10:36 - The Gospel is called “the good news of **peace** through Jesus Christ”



Notes

1 - The Gospel is called a “Gospel of peace” because it is a message of reconciliation (peace) between God and believers through the substitutionary atonement of Christ.

2 - RECONCILE. Definition:
To make peace between two parties.

We are “Christ’s ambassadors,” sent into the world “on Christ’s behalf”:

- **With “a ministry of reconciliation”.**
- **With “a message of reconciliation”.**
- **Imploring, “be reconciled to God”.**

3 - We are called to:

- **Be at peace “with all men” ourselves.**
- **Be peacemakers between others.**

2 Our Ministry of Reconciliation.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold all things have become new. All this is from God, who **reconciled** us to himself through Christ and gave us the **ministry of reconciliation**: that God was **reconciling** the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the **message of reconciliation**. We are therefore **Christ’s ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you **on Christ’s behalf**: Be **reconciled** to God.”

3 Called to be a Peacemakers.

- Matthew 5:9 - “Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.”
- Romans 12:18 - “If possible, so far as it depends on you, **be at peace with all men**.”
- Romans 14:19 - “So then let us pursue the things which make for **peace** and the building up of one another.”
- Hebrews 12:14 - “Pursue **peace with all men**”



Every Christian is an ambassador of Jesus Christ, i.e. a peacemaker.

“May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure” - 2 Peter 1:2

The Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 4

Patience

Waiting On God
Without Complaint

Isaiah 40:31

The Patience of God

Moses said, "I pray, show me Your glory!" ... And God said, "I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by, but You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"... Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, **slow to anger**, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished."

Exodus 33:18-23, 34:6



1 In the Plan of Salvation.

- Genesis 3:15 (4000 BC) - "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." (Dialogue with the devil)
- Isaiah 9:6 (700 BC) - "For a child **will be** born to us, a son **will be** given to us; and the government **will rest** on His shoulders; and His name **will be** called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."
- Acts 2:23 - Jesus was "delivered over by the **predetermined plan** and foreknowledge of God"
- Romans 5:6 - "For while we were still helpless, **at the right time** Christ died for the ungodly."
- Galatians 4:4 - "But when **the fullness of the time** came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman"

2 In Saving / Sanctifying the Elect.

- 1 Timothy 1:15-16 - "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am chief. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the chief [of sinners], Jesus Christ might demonstrate His **perfect patience** as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life."
- Romans 2:4 - "Do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and **patience**, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"

Notes

1 - Christ's atonement:

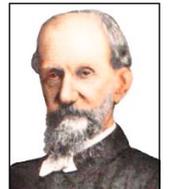
- Acts 2:23 - a "predetermined plan"
- Rom. 5:6 - "at the right time"
- Gal. 4:4 - in "the fullness of time"

The counsels of God's Will are marching forward right on time, without missing a step.

2 - God is so patient in our sanctification, even though we are slow learners.

"Be assured that if God waits longer than you could wish, it is only to make the blessing doubly precious. God waited 4000 years, till the fullness of time, ere He sent His Son."

Andrew Murray (1828-1917)



3 In Forgiving Sin.

- Psalm 78:38 - "But [God], being compassionate, forgave [Israel's] iniquity and did not destroy them; and often **He restrained His anger** and did not arouse all His wrath."
- Matthew 18:26-27 - "So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt." (**Parable of the two debtors**)

4 In Restraining Judgment.

- Romans 9:23-24 - "What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, **endured with much patience** vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory"
- 1 Peter 3:20 - "the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water."
- 2 Peter 3:3-15 - "Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.' ... But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. **The Lord is not slow about His promise**, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. ... Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, regard the patience of our Lord as salvation"

"Longsuffering, forbearing patience is to be the Christian's reflection of the character of God. It is part of God's character to be slow to anger and quick to be merciful. ... It becomes even more difficult to fathom when we see a sinless Being more patient with sinful beings than sinful beings are with each other."

R. C. Sproul (1939-Present)



Notes

4 - 2 Peter 3:8 - "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day." ???

God's view of time is not like ours!



STOP & THINK

How should we harmonize those statements in Scripture that tell us that God's will cannot be thwarted (Job 42:2; Isaiah 46:9-10; Daniel 4:35), with 2 Peter 3:9 (Left), that says God is not willing that any should perish?

- **If God were not willing that anyone should perish, then none would, for God's will cannot be thwarted.**
- **But Peter is writing to the church (2 Peter 1:1).**
- **i.e. God is not willing that any of them (the elect) should perish (Rom. 8:30).**

The Patience of Christ

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, let us run with **endurance** the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him **endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Hebrews 12:1-3



1 On the Cross.

- I Peter 2:21-23 - “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously”

2 Toward His Disciples.

- John 14:8-10 - “Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me?’”
- Luke 22:32-34 - “‘Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.’ But he said to Him, ‘Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!’ And He said, ‘I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me.’”

Notes

1 - Consider the suffering that Christ PATIENTLY endured:

- Scourging - John 19:1
- Punching - Mt. 26:67-68
- Thorny crown - Mt. 27:29
- The nails - Mt. 27:35
- His mother’s weeping - Jn. 19:26-27
- Despised by man - Isa. 53:3
- Mocking & taunting - Mt. 27:40
- All of our sins - Isa. 53:6; I Pet. 2:24
- Forsaken by God - Mt. 27:46
- God’s wrath - Isa. 53:5, 10-11

The Fruit of the Spirit of Patience in God's People

“The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, **patient** when wronged”.

2 Timothy 2:24



1 Old & New Testament Words.

- A. Hebrew.** *arek* - slow or long
- NAS - “slow to anger” / KJV - “long-suffering”
- B. Greek.** *makrothumia*; from *makro* - long; *thumos* - wrath; i.e. “long-tempered”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:14 - “be patient with all men”
- C. Greek.** *hupomeno*; from *hupo* - under; *meno* - abide; i.e. “abide under”; the ability to endure under pressure or pain, over the long haul.
- Romans 5:3 - “tribulation works patience”

2 Basic Definition.

- Submission to God’s sovereign orchestration of trials to train us in righteousness, yet without grumbling or complaining.
- Cheerful belief in God’s perfect timing, especially with regard to apparent delays in answer to prayer.
- To wait without complaint, as a determination of the will and not simply under necessity.

“The fruit of patience in all its aspects – long-suffering, forbearance, endurance, and perseverance – is a fruit that is most intimately associated with our devotion to God.”

Jerry Bridges (1929-2016)

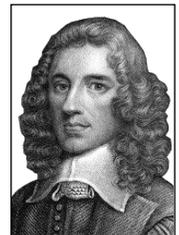


Notes

2 - Understanding Romans 8:28 and Genesis 50:20 is the Christian’s secret to patience and endurance in difficult situations.

“In regard of God, patience is a submission to His sovereignty. To endure a trial, simply because we cannot avoid or resist it, is not Christian patience. But to humbly submit because it is the will of God to inflict the trial, to be silent because the sovereignty of God orders it - is true godly patience.”

Stephen Charnock (1628-1680)



3 Some Causes of Impatience.

- False expectations about the Christian life.
- Fast food mentality.
- Frustration with God’s timing.

4 The Patience of Job.

- James 5:7-11 - “Therefore be **patient**, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be **patient**; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. We count those blessed who **endured**. You have heard of the **endurance** of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.”
- Job was a righteous and very wealthy man. (Job 1:1–3)
- Satan said Job was only a fair-weather worshipper. (Job 1:9–11, 2:4–5)
- Job lost everything, but maintained his faith in God. (Job 1:22, 2:10)

5 Trials Teach Us Patience.

- Romans 5:3 - “tribulation brings about **perseverance**”
- James 1:3 - “the testing of your faith produces **endurance**”
- 1 Peter 2:19-20 - “For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. ... if when you do what is right and suffer for it you **patiently endure** it, this finds favor with God.”

Notes

3 - False expectations from the health & wealth heresy.

3 - Not use to waiting for anything:

- fast food
- high-speed internet
- express checkout

4 - Job’s name is proverbial for patience: He struggled with why he was suffering, but never became bitter at God.

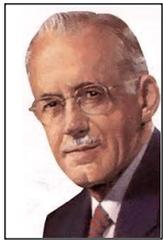
5 - Trials will make you bitter or better.

Trials in the Christian Life

- Genesis 50:20
- Exodus 4:11
- 2 Samuel 16:5-14
- Psalm 34:19
- Psalm 66:10
- Psalm 119:67
- Psalm 119:71
- Psalm 119:75
- Isaiah 48:10
- John 9:1-3
- John 15:20
- John 16:33
- Acts 9:15-16
- Acts 14:22
- Romans 8:28
- 1 Cor. 4:11-13
- 2 Cor. 1:3-5
- 2 Cor. 11:23-29
- 2 Cor. 12:7-10
- Phil. 1:12-14
- Phil. 4:11-13
- 2 Timothy 3:12
- Hebrews 12:5-11
- James 1:2-4
- James 1:12
- 1 Peter 1:6-7
- 1 Peter 2:19-21
- 1 Peter 3:14-17
- 1 Peter 4:12-13
- 1 Peter 4:16
- 1 Peter 4:19
- 1 Peter 5:8-10

“What then are we to do about our problems? We must learn to live with them until such time as God delivers us from them...we must pray for grace to endure them without murmuring. Problems patiently endured will work for our spiritual perfecting. They harm us only when we resist them or endure them unwillingly.”

A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)



Waiting on the Lord

1 Seeking the Lord Himself, Not Just Answers.

- Lamentations 3:25 - "The Lord is good to those who **wait for Him**, to the person who **seeks Him**."
- Hebrews 11:6 - "He is a Rewarder of those who **seek Him**."

2 Trusting in God's Goodness.

- Lamentations 3:25 - "The Lord is good to those who **wait for Him**"

3 Resting in God's Timing.

- Psalms 37:7 - "Rest in the Lord and **wait patiently** for Him"
- Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we **do not grow weary**."

4 Learning Contentment.

- Philippians 4:11-13 - "I have learned to be **content** in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

5 Hopeful Anticipation.

- Psalms 62:5 - "My soul, wait in silence for God only, for **my hope is from Him**."
- Psalms 130:5 - "I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and **in His word do I hope**."
- Psalms 27:14 - "**Wait for the Lord**; be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, **wait for the Lord**."
- Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that **wait upon the Lord** shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and **not be weary**; and they shall walk, and not faint."

"The fact that we cannot see what God is doing does not mean that He is doing nothing. The Lord has His own timetable. It is we who must learn to adjust to it, not vice versa. When God's time comes nothing will stand in His way. We can therefore wait for Him with this happy confidence: "As for God, His way is perfect" (2 Samuel 22:31).

Sinclair B. Ferguson (1948-Present)



Notes

1 - God is developing your dialogue with Him by delaying the answer to prayer.

Learn to delight in Him during the delay as much as in the answer.

5 - The way to know if I am waiting and delighting in the Lord, OR just waiting for an answer is: Am I growing weary or getting stronger? - Isa. 40:31

"If the Lord makes us wait, let us do so with our whole hearts; for blessed are all they that wait for Him. He is worth waiting for. The waiting itself is beneficial to us: it tries faith, exercises patience, trains submission, and endears the blessing when it comes."

Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)



Learn to wait on the Lord without complaint, and trust in God's timing.

The Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 5

Kindness

The Imitation of
God's Mercy

Luke 6:31-36

The Kindness of God

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in **kindness** toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2:4-7



1 In Choosing a People.

- Ephesians 1:4-5 - “He **chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the **kind intention** of His will”

2 In Sending His Son to Save Us.

- Titus 3:4-6 - “But when the **kindness** of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior”

3 In Leading Us to Repentance.

- Romans 2:4 - “Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the **kindness** of God leads you to **repentance**?”

4 In All that God Does.

- Psalm 145:17 - “The Lord is righteous in all His ways and **kind in all His deeds.**”

Notes

1 - Why did God choose me?

Not because of anything in me

(1 Cor. 1:26-31)

2 - God's kindness in sending His Son:

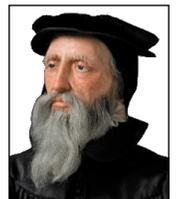
cf. John 3:16, Romans 8:32

3 - God sovereignly “grants repentance”

Acts 5:31, 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25

“If, then, we are through [Christ] united to God, we may be assured of the immutable and unfailing kindness of God toward us.”

John Calvin (1509-1564)



“The Lord’s loving kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22-23



1 The Very Essence of God’s Glory.

- Exodus 33:18-23, 34:6 - Moses said, “I pray, **show me Your glory!**” ... And God said, “I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by, but You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!”... Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and **abounding in lovingkindness** and truth ...”

2 God’s Eternal Disposition.

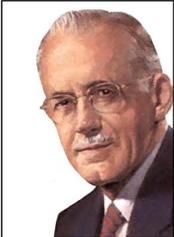
- Psalms 103:17 - “the **lovingkindness** of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him”
- Jeremiah 31:3 - “The Lord appeared to him from afar, saying, ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with **lovingkindness.**”

3 “Manifold Grace” in One Word.

- Hesed is translated at least 20 different ways including, faithfulness, kindness, lovingkindness, mercy, and unchanging love.
- Psalms 103:11 - “For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His **loving kindness** (NASB), **mercy** (KJV), **steadfast love** (ESV) toward those who fear Him.”

“Because God is immutable He never varies in the intensity of His loving-kindness. He has never been kinder than He now is, nor will He ever be less kind.”

A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)



Notes

1 - Hesed - The steadfast, covenantal loyal, loving kindness of God.

2 - Toward those in covenant with Him (Psalms 103:11, 17)

3 - “Manifold” - Many-sided (1 Peter 4:10)

“A wrong view of God leads inevitably to a failure to enjoy and grow in His grace. Failure to appreciate His love, His kindness and generous heart leads eventually to a life which bears no fruit and makes no progress. The lesson is clear: if you would grow in grace, learn what grace is. Taste and see that the Lord is good (see 1 Peter 2:2).”

Sinclair B. Ferguson (1948-Present)



The Kindness of God

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us ... according to His **kind intention**”

Ephesians 1:7-9



1 The Incarnate Kindness of God.

- Titus 3:4-6 - “But when the **kindness** of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy...”

2 During His Earthly Ministry.

- Matthew 20:28 - “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but **to serve**”
- Philippians 2:3-5 - “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have **this attitude** in yourselves **which was also in Christ Jesus**”

3 Contrast to Religious Leaders.

- Matthew 23:23 - ““Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and **mercy** (Greek: ἔλεος) and faithfulness”
- Matthew 9:13 - “But go and learn what this means: I desire **mercy** (Greek: ἔλεος), and not sacrifice”



STOP & THINK

From the verses (Left) how would you describe the kindness of Christ during His earthly ministry?

Always serving others & considering others' needs before Himself:

- Matt. 14:15-21 - feeding 5000
- John 13:5-17 - washing feet
- John 19:28 - cross before His thirst

Notes

2 - Christ regarded our need for salvation more important than His own physical welfare.

3 - ἔλεος, eleos - Mercy, kindness, compassion toward the miserable & afflicted, and desire to relieve them.

The Fruit of the Spirit of Kindness in God's People

“The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be **kind to all**, able to teach, patient when wronged”.

2 Timothy 2:24



1 Hebrew: *Hesed*

- *Hesed* – steadfast, loyal, loving kindness.
- Proverbs 19:22 - “What is desirable in a man is his **kindness**”
- Micah 6:8 - “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love **kindness**, and to walk humbly with your God?”

2 Greek: *Chrestotes*

- *Chrēstotēs* – kind, useful, serving.
- Ephesians 4:32 - “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

3 English: *Kindness*

- Kindness – From the Saxon word kin which means family, or child. Kindness literally means being gentle and caring, as with a child, or with family.

Notes

1 - God's kindness in the believer:

- **The Father requires it - Micah 6:8**
- **The Son modeled it - Phil. 2:3-5**
- **The Spirit produces it - Gal. 5:22**

2 - Kindness = External evidence & internal disposition

(See Piper quote below).

3 - Kindness = kin-ness, treating others like family (kin).

“The point [in Ephesians 4:32] is that Christian kindness is not merely an external change of manners; it is an internal change of heart ... ‘Be kind to one another, tender-hearted.’”

John Piper (1946-Present)



4 Paying Kindness Forward.

- Colossians 3:12-15 - “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, **kindness** ... just as the Lord [has done for you] so also should you.”
- Luke 6:31-36 - “Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is **kind** to ungrateful and evil men. **Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**”

5 Abiding Fruit of the Spirit.

- John 15:5 - “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who **abides in Me** and I in him, he **bears much fruit**”
- John 15:8 - “**My Father is glorified** by this, that you **bear much fruit**, and so prove to be My disciples.”
- John 15:16 - “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and **bear fruit**, and that **your fruit would remain**”

“Kindness is the inner disposition, created by the Holy Spirit, that causes us to be sensitive to the needs of others, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual.”

Jerry Bridges (1929-2016)



Notes

4 - Our kindness to others is generally proportional to our understanding of God’s kindness to us.

Meditating on God’s kindness is good “fertilizer” in which to grow the fruit of the Spirit of kindness.

5 - The Fruit of the Spirit of kindness is:

A Random Act = Sporadic & occasional

An Abiding Fruit = Continuous & growing



Kindness in the Christian:

- Not a Random Act
- But an Abiding Fruit

The Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 6

Goodness

Virtue in Action
For the Benefit of Others

1 Peter 2:12

God's Goodness: The Sum of All His Perfections

Exodus 33

- 18** Then Moses said, "I pray You, **show me Your glory!**"
- 19** And He said, "I Myself will make all My **goodness** pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you..."
- 20** But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"
- 22** and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the **cleft of the rock** and cover you with My hand until I have passed by.
- 23** Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."

Exodus 34

- 6** Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, **compassionate** and **gracious**, **slow to anger**, and abounding in **lovingkindness** and **truth**;
- 7** who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who **forgives** iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished



Notes

Exodus 33

v. 18 - Show me Your GLORY

v. 19 - My GOODNESS will pass by

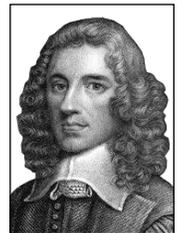
Exodus 34

v. 6-7 - As the Lord passed by He declared His COMPASSION, GRACE...

Gods' GLORY = God's GOODNESS =
The sum of all God's PERFECTIONS

"[God's] goodness is His glory ... the train of all His lovely perfections springing from His goodness ... mercy, grace, long-suffering, abundance of truth, summed up in this one word."

Stephen Charnock (1628-1680)



1 God's Intrinsic Goodness.

- The original Saxon meaning of our English word God is "The Good."
- Psalm 119:68 - "You **are good** and **do good**"
- Psalm 25:8 - "**Good** and upright is the Lord"

2 God's Solitary Goodness.

- Psalm 16:2 - "I said to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have **no good besides You.**"
- Luke 18:18-19 - "A ruler questioned Him, saying, 'Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' And Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call Me good? **No one is good except God alone.**"

3 God's Sovereign Goodness.

- Romans 8:28 - "And we know that God causes all things to work together for **good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."
- Genesis 50:20 - "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for **good**"

4 God's Creative Goodness.

- Genesis 1:31 - "God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was **very good**. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."
- 1 Timothy 4:4 - "everything created by God is **good**"

5 God's Covenantal Goodness.

- Jeremiah 32:40 - " I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them **good**; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me."

"[God] is not only the standard of all goodness; He is the source of all goodness"

R. C. Sproul (1939-Present)



Notes

1 - See: Stop & Think, p. 10,
definition of an intrinsic attribute

2 - God is the ONLY source of goodness:
Read Sproul & Pink quotes.

3 - God makes even bad things work out for good, but only for His people.

4 - God cannot do anything but good.

5 - That God, who cannot do anything but good, would make a promise (covenant) to do good, is a great condescension. cf. Hebrews 6:17-18

"All the goodness there is in any creature has been imparted from the Creator, but God's goodness is underived, for it is the essence of His eternal nature.

A. W. Pink (1886-1952)



God's Goodness **Toward Mankind**

1 **Beneficence: Common Grace.**

- Luke 6:35 - "But love your enemies, and **do good**, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men."
- Psalm 145:9 - "The Lord is **good to all**, and His mercies are over all His works."

"Common grace is ... the non-saving, sustaining grace of God that is common to all humankind."

R. C. Sproul (1939-Present)



2 **To His People: Special Grace.**

- Psalm 23:6 - "Surely **goodness** and mercy will follow me all the days of my life"
- Psalm 31:19 - "How great is Your **goodness**, which You have stored up for those who fear You"
- Psalm 84:11 - "no **good thing** does He withhold from those who walk uprightly."
- Lamentations 3:25 - "The Lord is **good** to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him."
- Romans 8:28 - "And we know that God causes all things to work together for **good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."
- James 1:17 - "**Every good thing** given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow."

Notes

1 - "Common" - available to all

"Grace" - undeserved

Examples: sun, rain, air

Read Sproul Quote (Above)

2 - "Special" AKA "Saving" Grace.

Example: Ephesians 1:3 -

Every spiritual blessing in Christ

Read MacArthur Quote (Below).

3 - Response: Thanksgiving & praise,

+ be an imitation and conduit of

God's goodness to others.

3 **Response to God's Goodness.**

- Psalm 34:8 - "O TASTE and see that the Lord is **good**; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!"
- Psalm 107:1 - "Oh GIVE THANKS to the Lord, for He is **good**, for His lovingkindness is everlasting."
- Psalm 135:3 - "PRAISE THE LORD, for the Lord is **good**"

"Special grace, better called saving grace, is the irresistible work of God that frees men and women from the penalty and power of sin, renewing the inner person and sanctifying the sinner through the operation of the Holy Spirit."

John MacArthur (1939-Present)



The Fruit of the Spirit of Goodness in God's People

1 Definition.

- Goodness is **virtue and holiness in action**. It results in a life characterized by deeds motivated by righteousness and a desire to bless others.
- The Greek word translated "goodness," *agathosune*, is defined as "uprightness of heart and life." It is goodness for the benefit of others, not goodness simply for the sake of being virtuous.

2 Toward All.

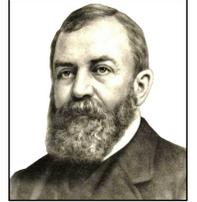
- Luke 6:27-36 - "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, **do good** to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you **do good** to those who **do good** to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. But love your enemies, and **do good**, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men."
- 1 Peter 2:12 - "Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your **good deeds**, as they observe them, glorify God."

3 Toward God's People.

- Galatians 6:10 - "So then, while we have opportunity, let us **do good to all people**, and **especially** to those who are of the **household of the faith**."

"Goodness is love in action."

Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899)



Notes

1 - Any good thing, done with good motives, and a good attitude is the fruit of a good God working in the Christian. cf. Revelation 4:10 - The redeemed casting crowns.



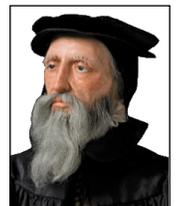
STOP & THINK

How should the Christian's good works be different than the atheist's humanitarian efforts?

- **Desire to glorify God.**
- **Address spiritual needs, not just physical needs.**

"We should therefore learn that the only good we have is what the Lord has given us gratuitously; that the only good we do is what He does in us ... in other words under the direction and influence of the Holy Spirit."

John Calvin (1509-1564)



The fruit of the Spirit of goodness is virtue in action for the benefit of others.

The Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 7

Faithfulness

The Measure of
Good Stewardship

1 Corinthians 4:2

The Faithfulness of God

1 “The Faithful God”

- Deuteronomy 7:9 - “Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, **the faithful God**, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments”

2 “He Remains Faithful”

- 2 Timothy 2:13 - “If we are faithless, **He remains faithful**, for He cannot deny Himself.”

3 Dimensions of His Faithfulness.

A. His faithfulness “reaches to the skies”.

- Psalms 36:5 - “Your lovingkindness, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Your **faithfulness** reaches to the skies.”

B. His faithfulness “surrounds” Him.

- Psalms 89:8 - “O Lord God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty Lord? Your **faithfulness** also surrounds You.”

C. His faithfulness is “to all generations”.

- Psalms 100:5 - “For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His **faithfulness** to all generations.”

D. “Great is Thy faithfulness”.

- Lamentations 3:22-23 - “The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; **great is Thy faithfulness.**”

4 The Foundation of Our Hope.

- Louis Berkhof (1873-1957) - “The faithfulness of God is of the utmost practical significance to the people of God. It is the ground of their confidence, the foundation of their hope, and the cause of their rejoicing. It saves them from the despair to which their own unfaithfulness might easily lead, gives them courage to carry on in spite of their failures, and fills their hearts with joyful anticipations” - *Systematic Theology*, p. 71

“God is true. His Word of Promise is sure. In all His relations with His people God is faithful. He may be safely relied upon. No one ever yet really trusted Him in vain.”

A. W. Pink (1886-1952)



Notes

2 - Something God cannot do:

“He cannot deny Himself”

He cannot be anything less than always faithful.

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas Chisholm (1925)

- 1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Refrain

- 2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

The Manifestations of God's Faithfulness

1 To Effectually Call His People.

- 1 Corinthians 1:9 - "God is **faithful**, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

2 To Fulfill His Promises.

- Hebrews 10:23 - "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is **faithful**"

3 To Forgive His People.

- 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, He is **faithful** and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

4 To Protect His People.

- Psalm 91:4 - "He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His **faithfulness** is a shield and bulwark."
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is **faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."
- 2 Thessalonians 3:3 - "But the Lord is **faithful**, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one."

5 To Discipline His People.

- Psalm 119:75 - "I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are righteous, and that in **faithfulness** You have afflicted me."

6 To Judge the World.

- Psalm 96:13 - "He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His **faithfulness**."

Notes

1 - God's faithfulness to effectually call those He predestined, Rom. 8:30

"those whom He predestined, He also called..."

2 - God's faithfulness to His promises:

Jn. 3:16 - To save those who believe

Phil 1:6 - To finish His work

Heb. 13:5 - To never forsake us

Jer. 1:12 - To perform His promises

3 - God's faithfulness to forgive:

Past, present & future sins forgiven

at the cross - Heb. 10:10, 12, 14

Confess sin to restore fellowship.

4 - Our eternal security requires that

"He is able to guard what I have

entrusted to Him" - 2 Timothy 1:12

5 - God is faithful to afflict/discipline

His children: Hebrews 12:5-11

6 - Atheist's dilemma: If there is a God

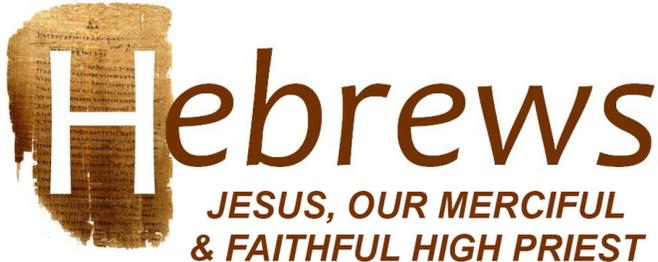
why is there evil in the world?

• God allows time to repent (Rev. 2:21).

• Expiration date on God's patience, then

He will judge the world in faithfulness.

The Faithfulness of Jesus Christ



“Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

Hebrews 2:17

Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer (John 17)

(1) “Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, ... (4) I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ... (6) I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me... (9) I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours ... (11) Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me ... (12) I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled. ... (14) I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (15) I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. ... (17) Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ... (20) I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word ... (26) I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called **Faithful and True**. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Revelation 19:11-16



The Fruit of the Spirit of Faithfulness in God's People

1 One Word, Two Meanings.

- Galatians 5:22 - Greek: pistis - faith, faithfulness

2 Faith, Then Faithfulness.

A. The Gift of Faith.

For Salvation:

- Acts 13:48 - "as many as had been appointed to eternal life **believed**."
- Ephesians 2:8 - "For by grace you have been saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God"
- Philippians 1:29 - **Belief** in Christ must be "granted".

For Ministry:

- Romans 12:3 - "God has allotted to each a measure of **faith**."
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-9 - "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ... to another **faith** by the same Spirit"

B. The Fruit of Faithfulness.

- Ephesians 2:8 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**"

3 Faithful Stewardship.

- 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 - "it is required of stewards that one be found **trustworthy**." Greek: *pistis*, faithful
- Matthew 25:21 - "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and **faithful** slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'"

"The faithful person is one who is dependable, trustworthy, and loyal, who can be depended upon in all of his relationships, and who is absolutely honest and ethical in all of his affairs."

Jerry Bridges (1929-2016)



Notes

1 - Faith: Trust in something/someone.

Faithful: To be trustworthy.

2 - Faith is a "gift" of the Spirit

Faithfulness is a "fruit" of the Spirit

3 - Final Judgment of believers to judge faithful Stewardship:

- **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

- **2 Corinthians 5:10**

- **Matthew 25:14-30**

The Parable of the Talents

"A person of faith is not only a person who trusts but a person who can be trusted. ... He is faithful. He is loyal. Fidelity is a mark of his character."

R. C. Sproul (1939-Present)



Good stewardship is measured in terms of faithfulness.

The Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 8

Gentleness

Meekness & Humility

Power Under Control

Ephesians 4:1-2

The Gentleness of God

1 God's Gentleness.

- Psalm 18:35 - "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand upholds me; and Your **gentleness** makes me great."
- Psalm 103:13-14 - "Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; **He is mindful that we are but dust.**"

2 Infinite Condescension.

- Psalm 8:3-4 - "When I consider the heavens, the work of Your hands, the moon and the stars, which You have made; **what is man that You are mindful of him?**"
- Psalm 113:4-6 - "The Lord is high above all nations, His glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, who dwells on high, who **humbles** Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and in the earth?" Hebrew: *shaphel*, to stoop very low

3 He Regards the Lowly.

- Psalm 138:6 - "For though the Lord is exalted, yet **He regards the lowly**"
- Isaiah 57:15 - "For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, 'I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.'"
- Isaiah 66:1-2 - "'Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being,' declares the Lord. '**But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.**'"

"'Thy condescension' may, perhaps, serve as a comprehensive reading [of Psa. 18:35] ... David ascribes all his own greatness to the condescending goodness and graciousness of his Father in heaven. Let us all feel this sentiment in our own hearts, and confess that whatever of goodness or greatness God may have put upon us, we must cast our crowns at his feet and cry, 'thy gentleness hath made me great.'"



Charles Spurgeon
(1834-1892)

Notes

- 1 - **God is gentle with us because we are so fragile (Psa. 103:13-14)**
- 2 - **Anthropomorphism - God doesn't need to "stoop".**
- 3 - **How foolish that ones made out of dust should be proud; that's why God regards the lowly and contrite.**



STOP & THINK

How would you describe a condescending person?

One who is arrogant, prideful, looks down on others, thinks they're better than everyone else.

Why is God's condescension such a blessing?

That the almighty, infinite & eternal Creator of the universe would stoop so low to have fellowship with ones made out of dust is amazing! "What manner of love is this!" - 1 John 3:1

The Gentleness of Christ

1 Infinite Condescension.

- Philippians 2:3-8 - "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with **humility of mind** regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus**, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, **taking the form of a slave** (Greek: *doulos*), and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."
- Matthew 20:28 - "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but **to serve**"

2 The Gentleness of Christ.

- Isaiah 40:11 - "Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will **gently** lead the nursing ewes."
- Matthew 11:28-29 - "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am **gentle** and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

"gentle" (NAS, ESV, KJV, NIV), "meek" (KJV)

- Matthew 21:5 - "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold your King is coming to you, **gentle**, and mounted on a donkey'"

"gentle" (NAS, NIV), "meek" (KJV), "lowly" (NKJV)
"humble" (ESV)

3 Humility, Then Exaltation.

- Philippians 2:3-8 - Jesus' **humiliation**.
- Philippians 2:9-11 - Jesus' **exaltation**.
- 1 Peter 5:6 - "Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may **exalt** you at the proper time"

Christ's Condescension

- They laid Him in a manger (a food trough).
Luke 2:7
- He had no stately form.
Isaiah 53:2
- He was not esteemed.
Isaiah 53:3
- He was a carpenter's son.
Matthew 13:55
- He was poor.
2 Corinthians 8:9
- He had nowhere to lay His head.
Matthew 8:20
- He came not to be served but to serve
Matthew 20:28
- He thought of others' needs first
Philippians 2:3-5
- He humbled Himself as a slave
Philippians 2:7-8
- He washed feet
John 13:4-16
- Triumphal entry on a donkey
Matthew 21:5

Notes

1-First Advent:

- Form of a slave
- Not esteemed
- Triumphal Entry on a donkey
- John (21 yrs old) at Last Supper (John 13:23)

Second Advent

- King of kings
- Worshipped
- Triumphal Entry on a white horse. (Rev. 19:11-16)
- John (89) on Patmos (Rev. 1:17)

- ##### 3-Jesus set the precedent for the Christian life:
- Humility in this life, exaltation in the next.

The Fruit of the Spirit of **Gentleness, Meekness & Humility**

1 Working Definition.

- The world defines strong people as those who are assertive, take charge, proud, self-sufficient, self-reliant, and independent. A gentle or meek person is the opposite of these things, therefore, many people associate these characteristics with weakness. A gentle or meek person is **willing to be submissive**, is **humble**, relies on God to provide strength.

“Biblically speaking, a gentle person is not one who is reticent or fearful but one who exercises strength appropriately. Jesus was the most powerful man who ever lived, as He was God incarnate (John 1:1–14). ... He stood for truth when necessary, but He was quick to show mercy to the humble and repentant (John 4:1–45).”

R. C. Sproul (1939-Present)



2 New Testament, *prautés*.

“gentleness” (8), **humility** (1), **meekness** (1)

- Galatians 6:1 - “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of **gentleness**”

“gentleness” (NAS, ESV, NKJV NIV), “meekness” (KJV)

- James 1:21 - “Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in **humility** receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

“humility” (NAS, NIV), “meekness” (KJV, NKJV, ESV)

- 2 Corinthians 10:1 - Paul appeals to “the **meekness** and gentleness of Christ”

“meekness” (NAS, ESV, KJV, NKJV), “humility” (NIV)

3 Family Trait of a True Heir.

- Ephesians 4:1-2 - “Walk in a manner worthy of the **calling** with which you have been called, with all **humility** and **gentleness**”
- Colossians 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”
- Matthew 5:5 - “Blessed are the **meek**, for they shall inherit the earth.” (cf. Psalm 37:11)
- Philippians 4:5 - “Let your **gentle** spirit be known to all men.”

Notes

1 - Voluntary submission to others, unless it violates God’s Word; then we cannot submit.

2 - 2 Cor. 10:1- meekness & gentleness are our imitation of Christ.

3 - Eph. 4:1-2 - humility & gentleness make our practice match our position

“[Gentleness] has nothing to do with weakness, timidity, indifference, or cowardice. It was used of wild animals that were tamed, especially of horses that were broken and trained. Such an animal still has his strength and spirit, but its will is under the control of its master... Meekness is power under control. Biblical gentleness is power under the control of God.”

John MacArthur (1939-Present)



Gentleness is a family trait and a mark of the Christian’s election and inheritance

Two Primary **Examples** Given in Scripture

1 Moses, Champion of the Law.

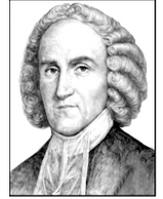
- Exodus 4:10 - "Then Moses said to the Lord, 'Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.'"
- Numbers 12:3 - "Now the man Moses was very **humble**, more than any man who was on the face of the earth." (KJV, "meek")

2 Paul, Apostle of Grace.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:7 - "But we proved to be **gentle** among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children."
- 2 Corinthians 10:1 - "I am **meek** when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!" (cf. v. 10)
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - "Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to **keep me from exalting myself**, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for **when I am weak, then I am strong.**"
- 1 Corinthians 15:9 - "For I am the **least of the apostles**, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."
- Ephesians 3:8 - "To me, the very **least of all saints**, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ"
- 1 Timothy 1:15 - "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinners**, among whom I am **chief.**"

"All who are truly godly and are real disciples of Christ have a gentle spirit in them."

Jonathan Edwards (17013-1758)



Notes

Moses & Paul are two great examples of the absolute necessity for humility, gentleness, and meekness in ministry.



Gentleness / Meekness is marked by humility and voluntary submission



STOP & THINK

Why does the Bible NOT use the words "meek" or "submissive" to describe God the Father?

- **God humbles Himself (Psa. 113:4-6), only in the sense that He condescends.**
- **God is gentle with us because we are fragile (Psa. 103:13-14).**
- **God NOT meek, but promotes His glory**
- **God is NOT submissive, but sovereign.**

The Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 9

Self-Control

Denying & Dying to Self
Reliance Not Resolutions

Proverbs 25:28

The Fruit of the Spirit of Self-Control

1 Presuppositions.

The need for self-control implies:

A. The presence of passions within the Christian that need to be bridled.

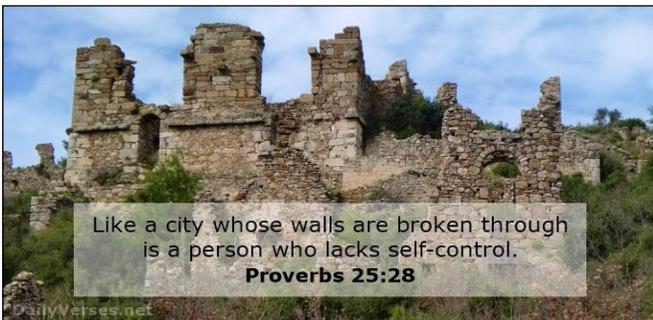
- Romans 7:18 - "For I know that **nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh**; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not."
- Galatians 5:17 - "For the **flesh sets its desire against the Spirit**, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that **you may not do the things that you please.**"

B. The possibility for drawing on some source of power to restrain these passions.

- Galatians 5:16 - "But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."

2 More Than Will-Power & Resolutions.

- The fruit of self-control grows in the believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to restrain sinful passions and appetites.
- Colossians 2:22-23 - "the **commandments and teachings of men** ... have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of **no value against fleshly indulgence.**"



"The very concept of 'self-control' implies a battle between a divided self. It implies that our "self" produces desires we should not satisfy but instead 'control.'"

John Piper (1946-Present)





STOP & THINK

Based on the presuppositions (Left), why would self-control NOT be an attribute of God?

- Impassibility - God has no passions.
- Nothing needs to be controlled.
- Anthropomorphism - "He restrains His anger" (Psalm 78:38);
He sovereignly expresses His anger at His own predetermined time.

From Proverbs 25:28 (Left), in what ways is a man without self-control like a city without walls?

- No boundaries
- No protection
- Easily attacked and overcome (i.e. by pride, lust, etc.)



The fruit of the Spirit of self-control is built on reliance (on Christ), not resolutions

A Few **Active Verbs** of Self-Control

3 Die & Deny Self.

- Matthew 16:24 - "Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself**, and take up his cross and follow Me."
- 1 Corinthians 15:31 - "I **die** daily."
- Galatians 2:20 - "I have been **crucified** with Christ; and **it is no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me..."
- Galatians 5:24 - "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires."

4 Flee, Resist, Abstain.

- 1 Timothy 6:10-11 - "For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil .. But **flee** from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness."
- 2 Timothy 2:22 - "Now **flee** from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3 - "For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you **abstain** from sexual immorality"
- 1 Thessalonians 5:22 - "**abstain** from every form of evil."
- 1 Peter 2:11 - "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to **abstain** from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul."
- 1 Peter 5:8-9 - "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But **resist** him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world"
- Romans 13:14 - "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision** for the flesh in regard to its lusts."

"We must learn where our personal weaknesses lie. Once they are identified, we must be ruthless in dealing with them. Earlier generations called this the 'mortification of the flesh'".

Alistair Begg (1952-Present)



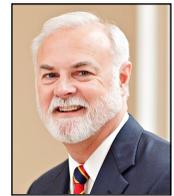
Notes

3 - "mortify", means: put to death

Galatians 2:20 sounds like Paul preaching the Gospel to himself!

"Our bodies are inclined to ease, pleasure, gluttony, and sloth. Unless we practice self-control, our bodies will tend to serve evil more than God. We must carefully discipline ourselves in how we 'walk'"

Donald Whitney (1954-Present)

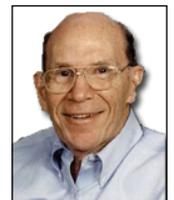


Notes

4 - Don't feed the flesh; "pet sins" grow in strength when they are fed.

"[We must] pray constantly for His enabling grace to say no to temptation, of choosing to take all practical steps to avoid known areas of temptation and flee from those that surprise us."

Jerry Bridges (1929-2016)



Five Beasts That Need Taming



1 Words. (cf. James 3:8 - "tame the tongue")

- Ephesians 4:29 - "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear."

2 Actions.

- Colossians 3:23-24 - "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve."

3 Thoughts.

- 2 Corinthians 10:5 - "We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ"

4 Attitudes.

- Philippians 2:3-5 - "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus"

5 Motives.

- 1 Corinthians 10:31 - "whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

"Instead of asking God for a desire to hate sin at its roots, some people cling to the pleasant memories associated with their addiction. They remember that they once had a potent escape, whereas now they experience the pain of facing daily problems."

Ed Welch (1953-Present)



STOP & THINK

What do the following verses tell us about the power behind self-control?

Romans 6:14 - "For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

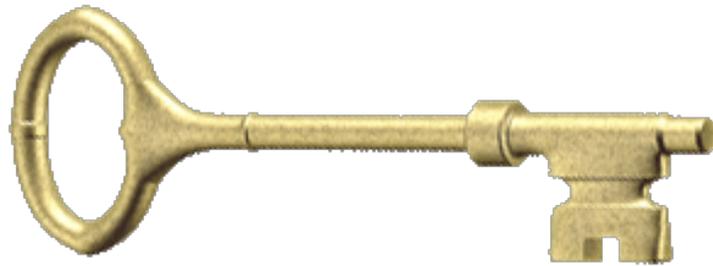
God's grace delivers us, not just from the penalty of sin, but from the power of sin.

2 Corinthians 5:14 - "the love of Christ controls us"
Christ's love for us and our love for Him is a catalyst for self-control.

Galatians 5:16 - "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."

See p. 4 - Stop & Think on Walking in the Spirit.

The Fruit of the Spirit



Summary of Key Principles

The Fruit of the Spirit

Summary of Key Principles

1 Love

- A. It is the royal law ([James 2:8](#)).
- B. It is a distinguishing mark of a true disciple of Jesus Christ ([John 13:35](#)).
- C. It is not just an emotion, but a catalyst for action ([1 John 3:17](#)).

2 Joy

- A. It is man's chief end, i.e. enjoying God ([Psalm 32:11](#)).
- B. It is not dependent on variables, but on an unchanging God. ([Philippians 4:4](#)).
- C. It is the strength of the Christian's testimony ([Nehemiah 8:10](#)).

3 Peace

- A. It is the fruit of reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ ([Romans 5:1](#)).
- B. It is supernatural peace in trying times ([Philippians 4:6-7](#)).
- C. It is our message as ambassadors: the Gospel of peace ([2 Corinthians 5:19](#)).

4 Patience

- A. It is submission to God's sovereignty over trials ([Romans 8:28](#)).
- B. It is doing all things without grumbling or complaining ([Philippians 2:14](#)).
- C. It is waiting on the Lord & trusting in God's timing ([Isaiah 40:31](#)).

5 Kindness

- A. It is treating others the way we want to be treated ([Luke 6:31-36](#)).
- B. It involves the inward disposition of being tender-hearted ([Ephesians 4:32](#)).
- C. It is not a random act, but an abiding fruit ([John 15:16](#)).

The Fruit of the Spirit

Summary of Key Principles

6 Goodness

- A. It is virtue in action ([Matthew 5:16](#)).
- B. It is an extension of God's common grace to unbelievers ([Luke 6:27-36](#)).
- C. It is to be especially expressed toward God's people ([Galatians 6:10](#)).

7 Faithfulness

- A. It is *Faith* (Trusting God), then *Faithfulness* (Being Trustworthy) ([Rev. 14:12](#)).
- B. It is the measure of good stewardship ([1 Corinthians 4:1-2](#)).
- C. It is God's standard for dispensing eternal rewards ([Matthew 25:21](#)).

8 Gentleness

- A. It is not weakness, but power under control ([2 Corinthians 10:1](#)).
- B. It is expressed through humility and voluntary submission ([Philippians 4:5](#)).
- C. It is a mark of the Christian's election & inheritance ([Matthew 5:5](#)).

9 Self-Control

- A. It is denying & dying to self through the Spirit ([Matthew 16:24](#), [Romans 8:13](#)).
- B. It is based on reliance, not resolutions ([Colossians 2:22-23](#)).
- C. It is the grace of God to flee, resist & abstain from evil ([Romans 6:14](#)).



*Equipping God's people
for ministry in the church and
mission to the world.*

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