

“The Produce Section”

Pastor Jeff Alexander + June 26, 2016

Matthew 7:17

Jesus said, “Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.”

We are made right with God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

This faith is never a fruitless faith; it brings forth results of growth.

Compared to the many “acts of the flesh” (Gal. 5:19), the “fruit” of the Spirit is a singular work of the Spirit in us.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

LOVE is selflessly serving and giving to another because of their God-given value.

JOY is delight in who God is, not simply in the blessings He gives.

PEACE is wholeness and rest in the providential care of the Lord who is over all.

FORBEARANCE (or PATIENCE) is the God-given ability to face trouble without destroying oneself or others.

KINDNESS is serving others in practical ways that help you rejoice in their joy.

GOODNESS is integrity, being the same person in every situation.

FAITHFULNESS is the courage to be utterly reliable and true to your word.

GENTLENESS is humility—not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less.

SELF-CONTROL is pursuing the important over the urgent, resisting impulsiveness.

How can the fruit of the Spirit take root in our hearts and be produced in our lives?

Galatians 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

- 1. Remember each day that you “belong to Christ Jesus.” You are not your own!**
- 2. Since you belong to Christ, you are enabled to “crucify the flesh” with Christ.**
- 3. “Keep in step with the Spirit,” seeking His will through the Word and prayer.**