

Galatians 5:16-25

The Spirit of freedom (part II)

Gal. 5:22. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 22. Gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Contrast: deeds of flesh vs. fruit of Spirit

- Fruit is an organic process, a natural outgrowth
- Not something you wake up and decide to be
- *Effect* of the Spirit's work

Actions flow out of the person we are being shaped into

“My children, with whom I am again in labor until *Christ is formed in you.*” Galatians 4:19

Spiritual formation, like fruit bearing, takes time

“If these qualities are yours *and are increasing*, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:8

1- What are you connected to?

John 15:4. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5. 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.

2- Fruit is produced by dependence on the vine

- As you trust God personally in the areas He reveals to you

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3- You will mature as you cling to the vine

God's ongoing work will “spill over” in situations God brings to you

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What it means	Christ toward us	Us to others
What is God like?	How has God demonstrated Himself to you?	How do you demonstrate God to others by His leading and power?

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“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us...”

1 John 3:16

What it means	Christ toward us	Us to others
Love is sacrificial, unconditional, redemptive	God loved you through Christ’s sacrifice	Central aspect of the transformed life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where are you building? To extend grace or demand rights?

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Joy Is taking pleasure in others’ lives & blessing	God Takes joy in you!	Like parents w/ children Taking delight in others’ advances What a shift to take pleasure in others’ lives!
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		Do you take joy in serving?
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“... for the joy set before Him, Christ endured the cross...” **Hebrews 12:2**

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.” **John 15:11**

“I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.” **3 John 4**

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What it means	Christ toward us	Us to others
Peace End of animosity, bridging alienation, unity	Reconciliation with God through Christ	Do you have some fences to mend? Will you accept grace & impose law?

“... God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them...” **2 Corinthians 5:18**

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What it means	Christ toward us	Us to others
Patience long-suffering, slow to anger	God sure does have a long fuse!	Learned by suffering How must we view others? Can we wait?

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

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What it means	Christ toward us	Us to others
<i>Kind & gentle</i> friendly, approach-able, warm	God treats us as his children	excitement for others taking initiative to make warm relationships verbal

“When the kindness of God our Savior and His love for humankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds done in righteousness, but according to His mercy...” **Titus 3:3**

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What it means	Christ toward us	Us to others
<i>Goodness</i> affection for good; no hypocrisy	God’s work in our lives reflects his good will for us	Integrity Love involves working for true moral transformation

God is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” **Philippians 2:13**

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What it means	Christ toward us	Us to others
<i>faithfulness</i> reliable, consistent	God delivers on His word	Is it more important that you’re gifted or <i>available</i> ? Can you be counted on?

		Will you even be aware when you're needed?
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What it means	Christ toward us	Us to others
<i>self-control</i> ability to say “no” when needed	Christ modeled restraint to accomplish God’s will for you	real freedom comes in setting aside your habits & compulsions for others

“We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 4:15, 16

Let’s Pray