

## Message #20

## Galatians 5:22-26

I want us to observe that in **verse 19** the noun “deeds” or “works” is plural. However, in **verse 22** the noun fruit is singular.

What this tells us is that when it comes to manufacturing works of the flesh, there are many different types of flesh works that we can manufacture. In fact, verses 19-21 list many. However, when it comes to the “fruit” of the Spirit, a person receives the whole package. This entire fruit package is a unit.

In other words, when the Spirit of God controls a life, all of these fruit items will be produced by the Holy Spirit. Our job is to get in tune with the Holy Spirit and this fruit will be a byproduct of this reality.

Now there is a major difference between “works” and “fruit.” The difference is this—works are the result of human effort, strain and labor, and fruit is not. Fruit is the result of yielding to a Divine, supernatural life force that is working within us that causes fruit to grow. A machine in a factory works. A machine turns out a product. However, a machine cannot manufacture fruit. Fruit is produced by a life force that runs throughout a plant or tree. A machine can produce works in an instant, but fruit growth takes time. It doesn’t come quick and it doesn’t happen overnight.

**When it comes to the spiritual life, we can produce works of the flesh ourselves, but we cannot produce the fruit of the Spirit ourselves.** Only God’s Spirit can produce God’s fruit. The process begins by believing on Jesus Christ. In fact, without Jesus Christ in one’s life, no fruit may be produced. Jesus said, “Apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5b).

Now the fruit that is mentioned here cannot be manufactured by our works, our religion or our church. This cannot be manufactured by circumcision, catechism or baptism. This fruit cannot be manufactured by trying to keep the O.T. Law or by following the traditions of men. This fruit may only be produced by the Holy Spirit and that comes when we yield to Him.

God wants us producing fruit. In fact, He does not want us producing a little; He wants us bearing much fruit. Jesus said, “By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit” (John 15:8).

Now as a believer we either continually produce works of the flesh or we continually produce the fruit of the Spirit. It is one or the other. Any honest fruit inspection will determine which it is. Good fruit cannot come from our bad flesh (Matt. 7:16-18). However, good fruit may come by yielding to the Holy Spirit. That is the very point of these verses:

**OUR LIFE IS EITHER CONTINUALLY BEING CONTROLLED BY OUR FLESH OR BY THE HOLY SPIRIT; AND BY ANALYZING OURSELVES WE MAY DETERMINE WHICH IT IS.**

We do continually manifest one or the other. We either manifest the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit. Notice the conjunction “but,” which begins **verse 22**. In sharp contrast to the works of the flesh, there is an opposite way to live life, specifically controlled by the Spirit.

You know in Christianity there are many books written about “building character.” But Biblically speaking, technically speaking, in the Christian life there is no such thing. Christian character is not built by us; it is built by the Holy Spirit. In fact, our character is naturally sinful and corrupt. It is God’s Spirit who must do the work in us. That is what Paul taught here.

Now as we look down through these verses, there are four manifestations that one has if one is controlled by the Holy Spirit:

**MANIFESTATION #1** – One who is controlled by the Spirit will continually manifest the fruit of the Spirit. **5:22-23**

In this fruit list, there are nine qualities that the Holy Spirit will supernaturally begin and continue to develop in the life of one who is yielded to Him. You cannot get these qualities from a book, from a school or from a church. Although, we would conclude one must be in church and under the Word as part of the process, but it comes down to a person yielding to the Spirit of God. These are supernatural qualities that are produced by the Holy Spirit.

**Quality #1** - The fruit quality of love. **5:22a**

Now in Greek there are four different kinds of love:

- 1) Eros, which is erotic love.
- 2) Storge, which is family love.
- 3) Philos, which is friendship love.
- 4) Agape, which is Divine love.

The noun “love” here in this fruit list is agape. This is a very unique God type of love. In fact, God actually is this kind of love. I John 4:8 says, “God is love/agape.”

Now this kind of love bears very little resemblance to the emotional or feeling type of love that most people think about when they think of love. This is the type of love that carefully thinks through and calculates and makes a mental decision to act in the highest possible level because of love.

This is the kind of love that God had for us as sinners that came up with a remarkable plan that could save us. Paul says, “God demonstrates His own love/agape toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). God carefully thought out a plan that could save us that would meet all of His righteous requirements and take care of all of our sin and it was His highly calculated love that caused it.

Frankly, very few people know about this type of love. Almost every person knows something about emotional love, irrational feeling love or erotic love, but very few know much about this kind of love. This kind of love, in which we carefully think through everything and then choose to do the best in a given situation, is a love that is only produced by the Holy Spirit.

**Quality #2** - The fruit quality of joy. **5:22b**

God wants His people joyful, happy and refreshed. He does not want them gloomy and doubtful. Now this kind of joy is produced by the Holy Spirit in harmony with hearing and studying God's Word. This kind of joy and delight comes from this focus (Ps. 119:16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 174). People who are not serious about God's Word will never have this joy.

This kind of joy is a deep happiness that one has based on Biblical and spiritual truth that is being applied to one's life. When this fruit is being produced, one does not just endure life; he enjoys life.

**Quality #3** - The fruit quality of peace. **5:22c**

God wants us to be peaceable people, generally speaking, and this kind of peace must be produced by His Spirit. We cannot be a peace maker until we are a peace possessor. This kind of peace is produced by the Holy Spirit. There are many areas in which we need peace. We need to be at peace with God. We need to be at peace with ourselves and we need to be at peace with others.

Peace is a tranquility of mind and heart regardless of the chaos of external circumstances or surrounding trouble. It is a supernatural calm that is unruffled by the trials of life or this world. Now we know from studying God's Word that we are in war in this world and we are called to fight a good fight. But what this means is in the midst of everything in life, the Holy Spirit will produce a supernatural calm that is solid and somewhat unruffled. Without this fruit, one will be continually disturbed and perturbed.

**Quality #4** - The fruit quality of patience. **5:22d**

Patience is a long-suffering and patient endurance that does not give up or quit. This patience may be demonstrated in our facing difficulties and problems or in dealing with our self or others. Truth is patience really is demonstrated in circumstances or with people who irritate us.

In fact, in the great text that deals with "agape love," the first "love is" statement is patience; "love is patient" (I Cor. 13:4). Patient endurance is truly a fruit production work of the Holy Spirit. We need to learn to patiently wait on God.

There is what we call in theology a propositional theology proper as it relates to God. These are statements that God makes about Himself, typically "God is" statements.

In Joel 2:13, we learn that God is “slow to anger,” which means He is patient. One in control of the Spirit will be long-tempered, not short-tempered.

**Quality #5** - The fruit quality of kindness. **5:22e**

This quality is that which treats others tenderly, gently and kindly, and not harshly. This fruit is just the opposite of one who is sharp and bitter.

**Quality #6** - The fruit quality of goodness. **5:22f**

People in tune with the Spirit of God are good people. They love good things and they demonstrate an active commitment to what is good and upright. This fruit desire is what is good for others and self.

**Quality #7** - The fruit quality of faithfulness. **5:22g**

This is the quality of being loyal and trustworthy and reliable. The closer we are in our relationship with the Holy Spirit, the more we will be people of our word. People who are not faithful and loyal are not controlled by the Spirit.

**Quality #8** - The fruit quality of gentleness. **5:23a**

One controlled by the Spirit demonstrates a gentle, not harsh spirit. One controlled by the Spirit is always angry at the right time, but not at the wrong time.

**Quality #9** - The fruit quality of self-control. **5:23b**

Self-control is just the opposite of self-indulgence. Self-controlled people have strength to say no to themselves and to their desires that are flesh produced. William Barclay said this is a great quality when one can live in the world and have garments unspotted by the world.

Now this is a fruit package. One who is controlled by the Spirit will manifest these qualities in any given context. The Law cannot produce this and the Law will not produce this. In fact, I love Paul’s statement at the end of **verse 23**—what kind of law are you going to come up with for one to obey who is producing these fruit qualities? There is no law you could ever dream up that can produce these qualities. How could you improve on what the Holy Spirit does?

**MANIFESTATION #2** – One who is controlled by the Spirit will continually crucify flesh passions and desires. **5:24**

Now let’s not play delusional games here. We have a flesh and we have flesh desires. One controlled by the Spirit can’t get rid of the flesh, but he can go to work on getting rid of the flesh passions.

There are three ways for a believer to accomplish this:

- 1) Make no provision for the flesh—get rid of or away from things that cause your flesh to fail.
- 2) Rely upon the Holy Spirit every day.
- 3) Confess every flesh failure immediately.

What will happen is you will discover the flesh is no longer reigning supreme in your life and the Spirit of God is gaining more and more control of your life. The key to this is to what you habitually yield your life.

**MANIFESTATION #3** – One who is controlled by the Spirit continually walks and lives by the Spirit. **5:25**

The word “walk” here is different from the word “walk” in verse 16. This particular word means to proceed to walk in order. It is like the basics of walking. The point is that the one who is controlled by the Spirit of God will go back to the basics of being careful step by step, decision by decision, circumstance by circumstance.

This walk idea means God is interested in all of our steps through life. He is interested in all aspects of our life—physical, emotional, vocational, social, intellectual and spiritual. God wants to walk with us through life and one who is controlled by the Spirit wants Spirit control in every area of life.

**MANIFESTATION #4** – One who is controlled by the Spirit is not boastful or envious. **5:26**

Now one who is controlled by God’s Spirit properly relates to others in three ways:

**Way #1** - He is not boastful.

William Hendriksen said God does not ever approve of know-it-all windbags. Augustine said pride is the mother of all heresies and the headspring of all sin and confusion.

**Way #2** - He continually challenges others.

Now the context is to challenge others to manifest fruit of the Spirit, not flesh works. Mr. Miles knew a woman who was miserable and made others miserable. One day he said to her—“Why do you want to live your entire life controlled by your flesh?”

**Way #3** - He is not continually envious.

Spirit-led people do not want to take what other people have. They are not jealous or envious of others.

The big question for each of us is this: Are we continually flesh-led or Spirit-led?