



Blackfoot Church of Christ

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Bearing "The Fruit Of The Spirit"

By Bill Sexton

There is a lot of misinformation floating relative to the Spirit. The Christian needs to be informed relative to the same -- what the Scripture say about Him, believe it, and work confidently, producing the FRUITS OF!

One does not have to guess if he/she has the Spirit. One can know and be just as SURE as he can in regard to the reliability of the word of God.

The Christian has the Spirit (Acts 2:38; Gal. 4:6) just as he/she has the Son and the Father dwelling in him/her "by faith" (Eph. 3:16-19). Notice one may be "strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;...that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." All three are there.

But one may claim to have the Spirit, when in fact they don't. What is the real test, that can't be contradicted? The greatest power is that of demonstration!

Immediately following the works of the flesh, the next section is introduced by "But..." Therefore, the contrast to the works of the flesh is the "fruit of the spirit"!

"Fruit of the Spirit" is identified (Gal. 5:22-26). If we are producing the fruit of the Spirit, then we can assure all who KNOW what the truth is. For those who do not accept that testimony, nothing will convince them, any way. Let us look carefully, so we'll know the FRUIT IS:

- 1) Love, which will manifest itself in action (Rom. 8:28-30; Jn. 14:15, 21; Rom. 13:10).
- 2) Joy -- he finds gladness in doing right (I Cor. 13:6; Rom. 14:17; Heb. 12:2; Acts 16:25)
- 3) Peace -- he/she is no longer at odds with, therefore is in harmony with God and His people (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:14-16).
- 4) Longsuffering -- gaining the ability to suffer for the cause of Christ, being patient, forgiving, slow to anger.
- 5) Gentleness -- returning good for evil, keeping one's "cool," being firm but kind, telling people of wrong but in the best manner possible wanting them to change so as to be saved (Rom. 12:17, 21).
- 6) Goodness -- having a taste for that which is right and holy, appreciating what is good and developing the ability to differentiate between good and evil (Heb. 5:14; Lk. 8:15).
- 7) Faith or faithfulness -- willingness to believe "all things" (I Cor. 13:7; II Cor. 5:7; Rom. 14:23).
- 8) Meekness -- having a quiet and forbearing spirit, that suffers wrong without resentfulness; but "firm and unyielding devotion to right." Shepherd, Commentary (SEE I Pet. 3:4, 15; Eph. 4:2).
- 9) Temperance: self-control (I Cor. 9:25-27). They who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with the affection (Gal. 5:24).

Living in the Spirit and walking in the flesh are incompatible. If the Spirit dominates, one can't do the works of the flesh; if one is doing the work of the flesh, then that is proof positive that one is not controlled by the Spirit of God. When we are told, "let us," such is an indication that such can be done: We are responsible.

Negatively, "let us not": 1) Desire vain glory, 2) Provoke one another to do evil and become angry; 3) Envy one another.

Positively let us: 1) Seek to restore the fallen or they who are overtaken in a "fault" (Gal. 6:1ff); 2) Be careful that we do not allow the same "fault" to overtake us!

How wonderful that men redeemed by the blood of Christ can become producers of such good, making their calling and election SURE!

Pursue Peace

By Doy Moyer

Christians are told to pursue peace with others, especially their own brothers and sisters in Christ (see 1 Peter 3:8-12; 2 Tim 2:22; Rom 14:19). This is not an optional matter for those who wish to glorify God. If we are not pursuing peace, then we are being anti-Christ. How else shall we see it? Not pursuing peace is a repudiation of the “gospel of peace” (Eph 6:15).

Yet how do we at the same time pursue peace while we are latching onto and defending worldly and material matters and causes that manifestly divide? How do we pursue peace while we mock and deride the very ones with whom we are to be at peace?

“But peace is a two-way street.” Yes, but “so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all” (Rom 12:18). A good marriage is a two-way street, but we cannot tell a married couple that it is a 50/50 proposition—that if one person only gives 50, then the other only giving 50 is okay. It is not okay (and I claim no perfection here).

For Christians, relationships are to be all in, giving 100 percent of the effort, even if the other person is not trying. If others do not want peace, that is on them: “so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” God gave His all even when we were His enemies. What shall we do?

Let’s quit defending what divides. Jesus broke down the barriers. Shall we rebuild them? “So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding” (Rom 14:19).

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- April's medicine is being adjusted to help with dizziness
- Ray & Ginger, as Ray deals with Alzheimer's Symptoms
- Larry, Leukemia Diagnosis
- Jaella Kreh during her pregnancy
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) passed away this past week
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- August worship assignments are posted

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – Ben Palmer

Lord's Table – David Porter

Wednesday

Song Leader – Ross Ward

Invitation – Tom Mitchell

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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