



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

Global Warming: Going Green: The Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:16-25

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 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. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. ¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

1 – LOVE - (*agape*) God’s love. The very selfless love that comprises the nature of God Himself which He has poured into the hearts of believers through His Holy Spirit as a gift.

- Not based on feelings, circumstances or opinion but is an act of the will.
- Unconditional, unmerited, and unchangeable
- To be expressed to all people including the unworthy, undeserving, unpopular and even enemies.
- The love that sent Christ to die for sinful men and by which we are identified as Christ's disciples (Jn 13:35)

2 – JOY (*chara*) a state or condition of deep seated inner happiness, rejoicing, delight, pleasure or blessedness.

- Rooted in assurance and confidence in the Lordship of Christ over all circumstances and the hope of sharing the glory of God.
- Not dependent on circumstance and thus enables rejoicing even in the midst of suffering.
- The cheerful heart of joy is reflected in cheerful behavior.

3 – PEACE: a spiritual disposition deep within characterized by harmony, security, resolve, assurance and confidence that settles the mind and strengthens the will.

- Peace is rooted in one’s reconciled right relationship and intimacy with God.
- We are to realize peace in every relationship and reconciliation is the essential key to that realization
- Peace is based on the assurance that God is at work in the midst of all things for good and therefore is independent of and undisturbed by circumstances.
- Jesus gives His peace and pronounced a blessing on “the peacemakers,” saying that they are the ones who will be called “sons of God”.

4 – PATIENCE: A state of emotional quietness manifest by consistent, constant and steadfast endurance or “long-suffering” of the soul in the face of unfavorable circumstances, provocation, persecution, pressure, discouragement, disease or suffering.

- Patience is the exercise of forbearance in asserting one’s rights or privileges and the exercise of self restraint in asserting revenge or retaliation against a wrong or ill-treatment.
- Patience is part of God’s character demonstrated in His dealing with sinners and withholding of judgment, which patience we are in turn to exercise toward those who offend us.

5 – KINDNESS: A gracious and considerate attitude and disposition of right motive and moral integrity that is to be exercised and expressed toward others.

- Kindness is to be demonstrated in behavior toward others that is patterned after the beneficial, compassionate and sincere behavior God has demonstrated toward man.

6 – GOODNESS: A life quality characterized by moral excellence, virtue and uprightness of heart.

- Goodness is the quality which “does good” and takes no advantage of others but treats them as they should be treated with honesty and integrity.
- Goodness does not allow evil to indulge itself, but stands up for what is right even employing discipline, correction and instruction to accomplish this. God is good!

7 – FAITHFULNESS: the character of trustworthiness and loyalty rooted in conviction and truth that makes a person one upon whom others can rely.

- Faithfulness is an ethical quality of God, that is produced in the believer’s life by the Holy Spirit.
- Faithfulness denies self and does not give into lust of flesh but sacrifices for others so as to preserve fidelity and honor commitments.
- Confidence in the character and nature of Christ allows Christians to be faithful and continue on.

8 – GENTLENESS: A mild, submissive and teachable spirit that has the courage, control and strength to walk in humility and meekness in dealing with others regardless of status or circumstance.

- Gentleness graciously accommodates the weaknesses of others, does what it can to help and associates freely with the lowly and poor.
- Gentleness is the opposite of an arrogant and self-assertive spirit and is a quality demonstrated by Christ.

9 – SELF CONTROL: The exercise of restraint, control and mastery over one’s desires, passions and impulses, especially the sensual appetites.

- Self control possesses and demonstrates the strength to resist temptation.
- Self control stands in opposition to allowing the cravings of one’s own lusts to dominate

COMMITMENT: In our commitment to God through Jesus Christ we discover a new orientation for life—an orientation that reflects the selfless and outgoing love of God himself that we are to in turn display in our lives toward others. Being free from the self centered ego and works of the flesh results in a life that allows the virtues of “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” to be expressed in ways that are beneficial to others and that reflect God at work in the Christian’s life... *in YOUR life!*