

GALATIANS 5:22-26

Lesson I

1. Context:

- a. What does the fruit of the Spirit have to do with the theme of the book of Galatians, i.e., righteousness by faith alone?
- b. What is the relation between the fruit of the Spirit and liberty (vss. 1-13)?
- c. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit (vs. 18)?
- b. What is the fruit of the Spirit being contrasted with in the immediate context (vss. 19-21)?

2. Preliminary considerations:

- a. What does Galatians 5:21 speak of "fruit" and not "fruits"?
- b. What is the force of the word "of" in verse 21, i.e., fruit that belongs to the Spirit, that comes from the Spirit, that *is* the Spirit, etc.?
- c. Are there other things that belong to the fruit of the Spirit or are these the only things?
- d. Why are these 9 things listed?
- e. Is there any significance to the fact that there are *nine* things listed?

3. Specific studies:

- a. Look up the other references Paul makes to the Spirit in Galatians. How do these relate to Galatians 5:21ff.?
- b. Look up the word "fruit" in a concordance and find out (1) if this is the only word so translated in the NT; (2) if it is not, what is the difference between this and other words; (3) if this word is ever translated differently.

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Lesson II

1. General questions:

- a. Can the nine items that belong to the fruit of the Spirit be divided up into groups?
- b. Is the order of these nine things at all important?
- c. Why are these things listed and not others?

2. Specific question:

- a. Love: how many words for love are there in the NT and what is the difference between them?
- b. Joy: how is this NT word related to the word "grace" (look up both in a concordance and note the similarity)?
- c. Peace: which NT book speaks most often of peace and why?
- d. Longsuffering: what is the meaning of "suffering" in this word?
- e. Gentleness: what different ways is this word translated in the NT and what is its basic idea?
- f. Goodness: what is the difference between this and "gentleness" (notice in a concordance that they are translated interchangeably)?
- g. Faith: is "faithfulness" (towards others) a legitimate translation of this word as some commentators so understand it?
- h. Meekness: is there a difference between this and humility?
- i. Temperance: what is the meaning of this word in the NT?

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Lesson III

1. Verse 23:
 - a. Why in the context of the rest of the book of Galatians does Paul mention law here?
 - b. What does it mean that there is no law against the nine things listed in verses 22 and 23?
 - c. Why this unusual, even strange way of speaking?

2. Verse 24:
 - a. Find other passages in Galatians which speak of being Christ's - why is this such an important idea in the book?
 - b. Is the word "crucified" here the same word that is used to describe Christ's death?
 - c. What is the difference between affections and lusts?

3. Verse 25:
 - a. Is there a difference between living and walking in the Spirit?
 - b. What NT passage speaks several times of walking "after the Spirit"? Is that something different from walking "in"?
 - c. The Greek has different words translated "if" with very different meanings. Which word is used here?

4. Verse 26:
 - a. What is the literal meaning of the word "vain" in Scripture?
 - b. What is "vain glory"?
 - c. Why are this sin and the other two warned against, when the Word has already warned against the works of the flesh including at least one of these sins?