

WHAT DOES A CHRISTIAN LOOK LIKE? (Part 2)

(Galatians 5:22-23)

...It is amazing to see the enormous variation that exists among people. It is especially fascinating when you consider that all people everywhere came from the same original parents. The variation within the gene pool...
...It is also true that Christians come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Yet, there is a similarity. It is a common likeness of character which is produced by the Holy Spirit in all believers. This likeness is a genuine mark of of new birth, and it is known as the "fruit of the Spirit."
...We began last time looking at the first three: love, joy, and peace.

TWO MORE CATEGORIES OF SPIRITUAL FRUIT BEING PRODUCED IN YOUR LIFE MAKING YOU LIKE CHRIST. For true believers are increasingly like Jesus.

I. Your Relationships With All Other People Will Show A Christ-Likeness. (v.22)

...for the Spirit will tenderize your heart toward family, friends, strangers, and even enemies.

- A. You will be enabled to endure with others, even if you are treated badly. "patience"
1. This word means to be long-suffering and slow to anger. It is to keep oneself under-control for a long time. Also, there is no thought of retaliation when wronged.
 2. God is described repeatedly in the Bible as "slow to anger." God's patience is always connected to His mercy. (Romans 2:4) (Romans 9:22)
 3. Jesus is the greatest example of patience. Consider how He endured in His ministry. (1 Timothy 1:16) Jesus is said to have "unlimited patience."
 4. Furthermore, we are commanded as Christians to have this in our lives. (Col. 3:12)
- B. You will delight in showing kindness to others, just as God has shown kindness to you. "kindness"
1. This quality is really love put into action. Sometimes this word is translated as "gentleness," and has the idea of tenderness. But it does not mean weakness!
 2. This word is frequently used of God's gracious attitude and acts toward sinners. (Ephesians 2:7) "God is kind toward sinners." Kind to those undeserving...
 3. Jesus often revealed this. He touches the sick, welcomes the children, and eats with sinners. One has said, "in Jesus, Fatherly kindness can be seen in the mirror."
 4. Believers are told to put on kindness. (Col 3:12) It is a friendly nature to all.
- C. Your life will issue forth as a generous stream of goodness to others. "goodness"
1. Goodness is hard to define. It is related to kindness, yet it differs from it in being a more active term. Perhaps, "generosity that springs from kindness."
 2. The Lord is the very essence of goodness. (Psalm 136:1) "The Lord...He is good."
...John MacArthur calls this "a sweet and active kindness."
 3. As Christians we are called to show good to all people, and especially to...(Gal. 6:10)

II. Your General Conduct As A Person Will Mirror The Savior. (vv.22b-23)

...As you walk in the Spirit you will increasingly be changed from the inside out.

- A. You will become a dependable person who is trustworthy. "Faithfulness"
1. Just as the Lord is utterly dependable, so you too are being made...(Lam 3:22-23)
 2. Prior to salvation, you may have been anything but reliable, but now that is different.
 3. Even your words are dependable, as you strive to do what you say you will do.
- B. You will possess a gentleness that previously foreign to you. "gentleness"
1. There is no English equivalent. It combines strength and gentleness and denotes a power under control. It is not weakness. Some translate it as "meekness."
...Moses was such a man. (Numbers 12:3) Jesus is this. (Matt 11:29) "I am gentle."
 2. This word describes the manner of our witness for Christ in the world. (1 Peter 3:15ff)
- C. You will increasingly possess a mastery over sinful desires and impulses. "self-control"
1. This involves the restraining of passions and appetites. Victory over fleshly desires.
 2. Paul describes this in 1 Cor. 9:15, as the athlete's control over his body. Self-mastery.
...this is only possible as we walk in the Spirit. This comes from living a "yielded life."
...Jesus in His incarnation was the epitome of self-control!!!!
...We should be self-controlled in all things.

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES: