



BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

111 Marcus & Thompsons Roads, LOWER TEMPLESTOWE VIC 3107

www.bulleenbaptist.org.au 9850 9633

Series : "The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit"
Sunday, April 23, 2006 : Study 10

"THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT"

Notes by Rev. Gary Lockyer

INTRODUCTION : GOD'S PURPOSE FOR HIS PEOPLE

These verses clearly set out God's purpose for us ... we are to be found in "the likeness of his Son" that is, to be made like JESUS

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory ... 2Cor3:18

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son ... Rom8:28-29

1. THE PROCESS continuing through our LIFE

"TRANSFORMED into his likeness" - tense? Present continuous in 2Cor3:18 : "are being"

My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you! Gal4:19

... becoming mature reaching to the height of Christ's full stature." Eph4:13b -GNB

... growing up into him who is the head, that is Christ." Eph4:15b

2. THE GOAL our possession when we stand in the PRESENCE of Jesus

"CONFORMED to the likeness of his Son" - tense? Future in Rom8:29 : "to be"

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 1Jn3:2

"He who began a good work in you will bring to completion on the day of Christ." Php1:6

What does "the likeness of Jesus" mean?

Does it mean physical likeness in some way? No.

It means to take on the "CHARACTER" of Jesus ... in the way we THINK and ACT

... so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. 2Cor4:11b

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will. Rom12:2

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus ... (who) made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant. Php2:5a, 7

... we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2Cor10:5a

What is the connexion between this and the "Fruit of the Spirit?"

How is Christ's character formed in us? The Holy Spirit is at work in us transforming our lives so that "acts of the sinful nature." decrease while growing in us is the "Fruit of the Spirit"

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other ...

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like ... those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Gal5:16-25

A. EXAMINING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

What are the Fruit of the Spirit?

a. The Attributes that Reflect God's Relationship with Us

LOVE - The SUPREME evidence of God's presence ... shed abroad in our hearts (Rom5:5)

JOY - The deep-seated emotional RESPONSE to God's love, irrespective of circumstances. (Rom5:2b-3;

PEACE - The abiding, stable MIND SET resulting from a cessation of hostilities with God and knowing a personal relationship with him. (Rom5:1, 10; Jn14:27; Php4:7)

b. The Attributes that Mark our Relationships with others

PATIENCE - bears INJUSTICE and refuses to retaliate (Eph4:2-3)

KINDNESS - the positive DISPOSITION to work for another's good. (Eph4:31-32)

GOODNESS - acts of SELFLESS Service. (1Cor10:24; Eph2:14)

c. The Attributes that Define our own Character

FAITHFULNESS - inviting others to RELY on us. (1Cor4:1-2)

GENTLENESS - Strength under CONTROL (1Tim3:3; Php4:5)

SELF-CONTROL - DISCIPLINED in our speech, attitudes and actions. (1Thes5:4-8)

B. SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

1. "Fruit" is in the SINGULAR. Under the Spirit's reforming work, all the attributes grow - not just a few of them. This is what differentiates a real work of the Spirit and the sometimes observable "mellowing" of character that age and experience may bring.

2. The ORIGIN of the Fruit of the Spirit is supernatural. Left to our own inclinations, we would tend to cultivate the actions and attitudes Paul summarises as "the works of the sinful nature." (vss19-21)

3. The GROWTH of the Fruit is natural when the Spirit is in residence and when we "keep in step with the Spirit." (vs25; see also Gal 5:13 & 16)

4. The growth of the Fruit is in the context of an ongoing spiritual CONFLICT. While the Holy Spirit is at work in us, we are not excused meaningful engagement with life with all its temptations and pressures (v16-18). Nor are we excused the exercise of our will in appropriating the Spirit's resources to choose to "keep in step with the Spirit" (v25, see also Php2:12-15)

The issues are:

Where do we STAND? Christ has set us free. Stand firm Gal5:1

What is our FOCUS? You were running a good race. Who cut in on you Gal5:7

What are our CHOICES in the present?

do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature rather, serve one another in love Gal5:13

Where are we SOWING for the future?

Do not be deceived; God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest. Gal6:7-9

FOR CONSIDERATION: *"The only reliable evidence of the Work of the Spirit in our lives is neither a subjective emotional experience or spectacular signs or gifts, but the effective growth of a moral, integrated character that increasingly reflects the character of Christ himself."*