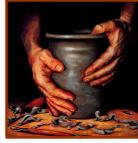


# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## The Fruit Of The Spirit

**Galatians 5:22-23**

Sunday, March 19, 2017

**"<sup>22</sup>But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!**

What the Holy Spirit produces in our lives is actually one amazing fruit expressing itself in nine different ways.

A fruit from South America and the Carribean, called the cherimoya, has more than one taste in it. Some characterize the flavor as a blend of banana, pineapple, papaya, peach, and strawberry. Mark Twain called it "the most delicious fruit known to men". You can't have one without the others.

In an effort to better understand it, some have placed the fruit of the Spirit into three categories. Evidently, God has grouped them neatly in this way: fruit toward God, fruit toward man, and fruit toward yourself.

### FRUIT TOWARD GOD

**Love** - loving care - Whatever you do to me, I will always seek your best good no matter what it costs.

**Joy** - deep happiness - Not founded on people. The pleasure of being alive. Cannot be taken from you.

**Peace** - quiet serenity - Harmony. Spiritually, soulishly, bodily, socially

### FRUIT FOR OTHERS

**Longsuffering** - endless patience - Slow-tempered (opposite of quick tempered)

**Gentleness** - practical kindness - Feeling for people; being mellow

**Goodness** - unrestrained generosity - Joseph of Arimathea and Joseph called Barnabas are examples.

### FRUIT FOR THE SELF

**Faithfulness** - steady reliability - Always being there for others

**Meekness** - gentle humility - Power under control; tamed. Moses, the meekest man (Numbers 12:1-15)

**Self Control** - personal restraint - The ability to say "no" to yourself

Jesus displayed the fruit of the Spirit to perfection.

You may see that you can manage one or two of the fruit better than others because of your personal temperament. Developing all the fruit takes time.

## **HOW FRUIT IS DEVELOPED**

1. Studying God's Word
2. Developing a pattern of prayer
3. Fellowshiping in authentic Christian culture
4. Submitting to discipline

We will know that our personal fruit is developing when people around us (Christian or non-Christian) recognize that we are changing. Francis Shaeffer says that the Lord has given the world the right to judge the church. This is confirmed in **John 13:35**

**"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, that ye love one another."**

On a fall day in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, a man was on an afternoon hike several miles from where he parked his vehicle. The temperature dropped precipitously as ominous clouds began to form. Realizing a storm was approaching, the man headed back to where he left his car. But on the way, he was caught in a whiteout. The hours passed as he wandered in circles-unable to see even two feet ahead of him. He felt his energy giving out and a deadly lethargy creeping in, yet he knew that if he listened to his body and sat down to rest, he would never get up again. After wandering around a few more minutes, however, he finally gave in and decided to rest, knowing he would soon die. But as he sat down, he felt something next to him. He brushed away the snow and found the body of someone who, like him, had been caught in the storm. He felt for a pulse, and finding there was still life flowing through the body, he stood up, and with super-human strength hoisted the body to his shoulders and began to walk. After a mere one hundred feet, seemingly out of nowhere, he came upon a cabin.

It was only one hundred feet away from where the hiker was ready to give up. He didn't see it because of the blizzard, but once he attempted to save someone else and started moving, the cabin materialized before him. Inside, there was a fire in the fireplace and a man cooking dinner. Both of the travelers were warmed, fed, and saved.

Perhaps you feel like giving up, as though you want to sit down and die. **The Spirit gave you fruit to lead you to someone in need, so that you can use your gift to the glory of God.**