

Woodland Baptist Church
Morning Worship - November 11, 2012
Galatians 5:16-26 Fruit of the Spirit
Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control

1. Galatians 5:16-26

- a. **EVIDENCE of WALKING in the Spirit**
- b. **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 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

2. Scholarship sees three categories here:

- i. Dispositions of the mind - love, joy, peace
- ii. Qualities affecting human relationships - patience, kindness, goodness
- iii. Principles that guide conduct - **faithfulness, gentleness and self control**
- b. This morning we will expound on the principles that guide conduct. Original languages:
 - i. **Faithfulness** - [pistis] - the state of being someone in whom complete _____ can be placed; can range in meaning from subjective confidence to objective basis for confidence.
 - ii. **Gentleness** - [prautes] - gentleness of attitude and behavior in contrast with _____ in one's dealings with others.
 - iii. **Self-Control** - [enkrateia] - to exercise complete control over one's actions and desires; to say "no" to one's body; to make one's heart obedient.

3. Faithfulness

- a. Basic content of the Christian message - **Gal 1:23** -23 They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now **preaching the faith** he once tried to destroy.
- b. Acceptance of and Obedience to this gospel message and to Christ as savior and Lord.
- c. Fidelity - quality of being true, trustworthy and _____ in all one's dealings with others.
 - i. Legal terminology - Fiduciary Duty - a legal obligation of one party to act in the best interest of another.
 - ii. **2 Timothy 2:1-2** - You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to **faithful** men who will be able to teach others also.

- d. **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24** - 23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.
- e. **Revelation 19:11** - 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.
- f. **Timothy George** - "For those who are called to serve as leaders of God's people, now as then, faithfulness should be a far more coveted mark of ministry than temporal _____, ecclesiastical recognition, or popular acclaim."

4. Gentleness

- a. A submissive and _____ spirit toward God that manifests itself in genuine humility and consideration toward others.
- b. One who is gentle in this sense will not attempt to push others around or arrogantly impose one's own will on subordinates or peers.
- c. It is not to be confused with weakness, however, it is simply strength and power under control.
- d. Matthew 11:29 -Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am _____ and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls

5. Self Control

- a. Mastery over one's desires and passions.
- b. **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** - 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
- c. **2 Peter 1:5-6** - 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness...

6. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

- a. In coming to Christ we have been born again by the Spirit of God and have become an new creation. This happens our being crucified in our flesh with Him, which means our passions and desires have now been transformed...we must now live by the Spirit and keep in step with the Spirit.
- b. Evidence of a life of the flesh is seen in conceit, provocation and envy - a return to the flesh.