

Study 15
Galatians 5:22-26

1. a) What do you think the imagery of the fruit of the Spirit conveys about character change?

b) Reflection Question. How have you seen any of this fruit in your lives over the years in your own life?

2. a) Why is the fruit mentioned in singular?

b) Discussion Question. Can you give examples of the fruit being fake? How can you tell?

3. What does Paul mean by saying that “against such things, there is no law” in verse 23?

Case History

James was a leader in the 5th Baptist church and known as a godly man as he rarely lost control of his temper, was soft-spoken, and generally everyone liked him. He easily won his elections in the local congregational elections. One day two groups of people were at odds with each other in church. One group wanted to have their pastor sacked as they had heard that he was involved in an illicit affair with a church member for the last 1 year. The other group was his life group members who had staunchly defended him. One of the leaders of the church James conducted the investigation with two other leaders and they established that the pastor was guilty even though the accusations were all made up by a disgruntled member of the church. The pastor steadfastly insisted on remaining at his post and still denied the accusations. However, the friction between the two groups of church members was enormous with some of them really heated, loud and even some threatening physical violence if nothing was done about the pastor. They turned to James for resolution. James refused to refute or deny these accusations saying they were hurtful in nature and not edifying to anyone. He was pressured to keep the pastor on as his supporters were in the majority. To placate the detractors of the pastor he restricted the yearly increment of the pastor. Everyone did not get what they wanted but had something and he managed to placate both sides.

- a) Discussion Question. Do you think James exhibited the fruit of the Spirit when he handled the situation with gentleness, patience, kindness, and goodness? If you disagree then why?

- b) Discussion Question. What are the long-term risks of what James had done?

- c) Reflection Question. What are the steps you are currently taking to cultivate the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

Takeaway

Galatians 5:22-26 emphasizes that true freedom in Christ involves living in the Spirit, not indulging in sinful desires. The fruit of the Spirit— love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—naturally grows in believers through the Holy Spirit, transforming them from within. The key to bearing this fruit is focusing on God's desires and allowing the Spirit to cultivate these qualities over time.