

LESSON 6

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Memorize:

***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
(Galatians 5:22-23)***

INTRODUCTION

One of the most important questions that we can ask is: “What is the evidence and proof that someone is a Christian, a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ?” We know that the attending church does not make one a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

HOW WILL OTHERS KNOW YOU ARE A TRUE CHRISTIAN?

“Ye shall know them by their _____. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a _____ tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A _____ tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the _____. Wherefore by their _____ ye shall know them.” (Matthew 7:16-20)

What Jesus was telling us in these verses is that people produce fruit just as trees do. Their fruit (the way they live their lives) is the result of their character. The inward condition of a person is seen in their outward actions.

People are either one of two types of trees:

1. BAD TREE (Bad Character) – Produces bad fruit which is the works of the flesh.
2. GOOD TREE (Good Character) – Produces good fruit which is the fruit of the Spirit.

WORKS OF THE FLESH (*Galatians 5:19-21*)

Adultery *A married person who has sexual relations with someone other than their spouse.*

Fornication *Sexual immorality. Includes all forms of illicit sexual relations.*

Uncleanness	<i>Moral impurity in thought, word and deed.</i>
Lasciviousness	<i>Open shameless display of sexual sins, lustful behavior.</i>
Idolatry	<i>Something or someone you love and honor more than God.</i>
Witchcraft	<i>Sorcery, entering into the realm of evil spirits.</i>
Hatred	<i>Intense feeling of anger or hostility toward someone.</i>
Variance	<i>Acts of hatred.</i>
Emulations	<i>Jealousy.</i>
Wrath	<i>Outbursts of temper.</i>
Strife	<i>Fighting, arguing.</i>
Seditions	<i>Divisions into separate groups.</i>
Heresies	<i>False teachings.</i>
Envy	<i>Evil desire to possess what belongs to someone else.</i>
Murders	<i>Destruction of human life.</i>
Drunkenness	<i>Intoxication with strong drink.</i>
Reveling	<i>Wild parties.</i>

Paul concludes his list of the works of the flesh with "...and such like," letting us know that this is only a sampling of bad fruit.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

Love	<i>An intense desire to please God and to do good to our fellowman without expecting anything in return. (1 Corinthians 13:1-7)</i>
Joy	<i>Inner happiness as a result of having peace with God. (1 Peter 1:8)</i>
Peace	<i>Absence of conflict. A calm assurance that all is well and God is in control. (John 14:27)</i>

- Longsuffering** *Patience toward others and the circumstances we find ourselves in. (1 Timothy 1:16)*
- Gentleness** *Kindness and courtesy in our dealings with others. (1 Thessalonians 2:7)*
- Goodness** *Desire to benefit and help others. (Galatians 6:10)*
- Faith** *Not saving faith, but faithfulness (trustworthy, loyal and dependable). (Revelation 2:10, 17:14)*
- Meekness** *Strength and power under control. A meek person does not retaliate when wronged. (Titus 3:2)*
- Temperance** *Self-control. A life controlled by God's Spirit and not other influences. (1 Corinthians 9:25)*

1. Paul said the manifestation of a Christ-like life was compared to observers reading an _____, written not with ink, but with the _____. (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)
2. How will men know if you are a disciple of Christ? (John 13:35)

3. Is it possible to profess to be a Christian, but in your actions deny Him? (Titus 1:16) _____

HOW TO PRODUCE GOOD FRUIT

1. "But the _____ that is from _____ is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and _____..." (James 3:17)
2. How can we help ourselves become fruit-bearing trees?
 - a. We must desire _____. (1 Peter 2:1-2)
 - b. We must yield ourselves unto _____. (Romans 6:13)
 - c. We must deny our _____. (Romans 8:13; 1 Peter 4:2)
 - d. We must abide in _____. (John 15:5)

3. On which two commandments hang the law and the prophets? (**Matthew 22:36-40**) _____

OUR GOOD FRUIT AFFECTS OTHERS

1. What are we fruitful in, according to **Colossians 1:10**? _____
2. What is the effect on others when they see your good works? (**Matthew 5:16**) _____
3. Read **1 Corinthians 12:14-27**. These verses tell us that all members of the body (of believers) are important and that "...*the members should have the same care one for another...*"

How can we do that?

(**Galatians 6:2**) _____

(**John 13:35**) _____

(**Ephesians 4:32**) _____

(**Romans 12:10**) _____

(**Romans 12:13**) _____

4. Are you your brother's keeper? (**Genesis 4:9**) _____
5. Our example can either be a help or a hindrance to our brother or sister in the Lord.

We should be careful that we don't become a _____ to our brother and give occasion for him/her to fall. (**Romans 14:13**)

6. List ways in which we can be a good example to our brother/sister:
(**Galatians 6:9-10; Luke 19:13**) _____
(**1 Timothy 2:9-10**) _____
(**Proverbs 17:9; 18:8**) _____
7. List ways in which we can be a stumbling block to our brother/sister:
(**Romans 14:21**) _____
(**Proverbs 11:22**) _____

(Hebrews 10:25) _____

SUMMARY

First Corinthians 3:16-17 tells us that we are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in us. This means that God actually lives in us. He is always with us. Jesus is the source of our good character. With His help and our desire to do so, we can live the Christian life and produce the spiritual fruit which is required of all true Christians and thus glorify God.

**NOTES:
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**