

Lesson 13 – Character & Fruit of the Spirit

Introduction

Discipleship is not only about what we *know* or *do*, it is about who we are becoming. The goal of the Christian life is Christlikeness, reflected in both character and conduct. The Holy Spirit produces fruit in us that cannot be manufactured by human effort. This fruit reveals maturity and is the evidence of a Spirit-filled life. In this lesson, we explore the biblical picture of Christian character and how the fruit of the Spirit shapes discipleship.

Teaching Session

1. The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- Fruit = evidence of life in the Spirit.
 - Not “fruits” (plural) but one fruit with multiple qualities.
 - These traits reflect Christ’s nature lived out in us.
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2. Transformation by Beholding Christ

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

- Transformation is a process, not instant perfection.
 - The more we behold Christ, the more we reflect Him.
 - The Spirit is the agent of transformation.
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3. Love as the Greatest Virtue

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love

does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

- Love is the foundation and motivation of all character.
 - Without love, even spiritual gifts are empty (1 Corinthians 13:1–3).
 - Love covers and sustains every other fruit.
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4. Evidence of True Discipleship

John 13:34–35 (NIV)

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

- Christlike love is the mark of true discipleship.
 - The world recognizes Jesus through the character of His followers.
 - Our witness is tied to how we love others.
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5. Walking by the Spirit

Galatians 5:24–25 (NIV)

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

- Producing fruit requires crucifying the flesh.
 - The Spirit empowers us to live beyond selfish desires.
 - Character is cultivated by daily “walking in step” with Him.
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Study & Discussion Questions

1. Which fruit of the Spirit do you feel is most visible in your life right now? Which one do you need God to grow more in you?
 2. How does beholding Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18) transform us more than striving in our own strength?
 3. Why is love considered the greatest of all virtues?
 4. How does your character serve as a witness of Christ to others?
 5. What practical steps can you take to “keep in step with the Spirit” daily?
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Application & Reflection

- **Memory Verse:** *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”* (Galatians 5:22–23, NIV)
 - **Personal Reflection:** Reflect on the nine aspects of the fruit of the Spirit. Journal one area where you see growth and one where you need deeper transformation. Ask the Spirit to cultivate that fruit in you this week.
 - **Group Activity:** As a group, choose one of the fruits (e.g., kindness). Brainstorm together what it looks like practically in family, work, and church life. Commit to intentionally practicing that fruit throughout the week.
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