

FREEDOM

(For FREEDOM Christ has set us free! Gal 5:1)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, November 21/22, 2015

Ray Davis

“Gospel Character2” Galatians 5:16-25

As Christians we have incredible and incomparable resources for life change. And so, it just makes a world of sense that the Creator of the Universe would have Children who are less and less characterized by the “works of the flesh” (vv19-21) more and more characterized by the “fruit of the Spirit” (vv22-23).

GROWING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT vv24-25

- 1) Remember your identity in Christ. v24; 2Cor5:17,21
- 2) Crucify the “over-desires” of the flesh. v24; Rom6:6; Gal2:20
- 3) Make yourself so happy in Christ that sin loses its appeal. v25; John16:14; Eph5:18-21; Phil4:4

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT vv22-23 (Definitions by Timothy Keller)

Agape – love

Definition – To serve others for their good and intrinsic value.

Opposite – Fear: self-protection and abusing people.

Counterfeit – Selfish affection. Rescuing someone but really rescuing self. Attracted not to a person, but to how this person’s love makes you feel.

Chara – joy

Definition – Delight in God & his salvation for sheer beauty & worth of who He is.

Opposite – Hopelessness, despair.

Counterfeit – Elation that comes with blessings not the Blesser! Mood swings based on circumstances.

Irene – peace

Definition – Confidence and rest in the wisdom and sovereignty of God.

Opposite – Anxiety and worry.

Counterfeit – Indifference, apathy, not caring about something. “I don’t care.”

Makrothumia – patience

Definition – Ability to take trouble (from others or life) without blowing up or melting down. To suffer joyfully.

Opposite – Resentment toward God and others.

Counterfeit – Cynicism. Self-righteousness. “It’s too small to be bothered about.”

Agathosune – goodness (integrity)

Definition – Honesty, transparency. Being the same in public & private.

Opposite – Phoniness; hypocrisy.

Counterfeit – Truth without love. “Getting it off the chest” for your sake.

Pistis – faithfulness

Definition – Loyalty, courage, committed, reliable. True to one’s word.

Opposite – Opportunist. Fair-weather friend.

Counterfeit – Love without truth. Being loyal when you should be willing to confront or challenge.

Prautas – gentleness (humility)

Definition – Self-forgetfulness.

Opposite – Superiority: self-absorbed self-aggrandizement.

Counterfeit – Inferiority: self-absorbed, self-consciousness.

Egkrateia – self-control

Definition – Ability to choose the urgent over the important thing.

Opposite – A driven, impulsive, uncontrolled person.

Counterfeit – Willpower through pride or through more “functional” idols.

John 15:5 “I (Jesus) am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in Him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

GROWING NOTES

- 1) As Christians we have incredible and incomparable resources for life change (Rom8:11). Explain. Why do you think it makes sense that the Creator of the Universe would have Children less and less characterized by “works of the flesh” (vv19-21) and more and more characterized by “fruit of the spirit” (vv22-23)? Why is life change so difficult (v17)?
- 2) Read Galatians 5:16-25. What stands out to you? When it comes to growing in the fruit of the Spirit why is it so important for us to remember our identity in Christ (v24; 2Cor5:17, 21)? What happens when we forget it? What does it mean to crucify the desires of the flesh (v24)? To walk by the Spirit is to make ourselves so happy in Christ that sin loses its appeal (v25; John16:14; Eph5:18-1; Phil4:4). Explain why?
- 3) Review the list of the Fruit of the Spirit. Which one(s) are you in most need of? Jesus didn’t say abide in my fruitfulness, but to abide in Him and fruitfulness will follow (John 15:5). Why do you think this is the key to fruitfulness? What does it mean to abide in Christ? What are some things you can begin to do this next week to get better at abiding in Christ? Pray.