

## Section 15: Holiness of Spirit

### I. Introduction

“And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mind.” Leviticus 20:26<sup>141</sup>

To obtain holiness, as individual should “ Keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in His ways” Deuteronomy 28:9<sup>142</sup>

Holiness teaching must include the inward man and the outward man. Some say it would be better for a man to have the right spirit inside and be a little short on the outward man’s holiness, than be a self-righteous Pharisee with a rotten spirit. This sounds good; however, it is not a choice of holiness either inside or holiness outside. It is a matter of both inward and outward. One without the other is something besides holiness. If there is true holiness in the inward man, it will permeate to the outward.

Holiness is not a new fad or an optional program. Holiness is one of God’s attributes, just as love is a characteristic of God. The nation of Israel was commanded to be holy because God was holy. This same nature of God that Israel was to adopt is also in the Christian’s lifestyle. The Church is not only admonished to be holy, but it is a requirement to see God (Hebrews 12:14). We are to take on the nature of Christ, and that nature includes holiness.

The first view of holiness concerns the inward man. Ephesians 4:20-32 presents a list of inward holiness that each Christian should possess. Verse 24 speaks of true holiness. True holiness involves putting some items off (former manner of living, Ephesians 4:22). It also involves putting some items on. Ephesians 4:24 informs one to put on the new man. The new man is created in righteousness and holiness. Of course, to be able to make the transition of “old man” (verse 22) to “new man” (verse 24), a regeneration and renewing of verse 23 must be experienced.

### II. Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 also presents some characteristics that must be possessed by one who has true holiness. That is, the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit has to be cultivated. To be more productive, an individual should adhere to instructions found in the Word of God. The righteous will automatically produce fruit. And if one is planted properly in the house of the Lord, there will be fruit even in old age (Psalms 92:12-13). Another point for spiritual growth is to crucify the flesh and to walk in the Spirit, and the fruit will come naturally (Galatians 5:16-18, 25). The following list defines the fruit that a Christian is expected to bear.

## A. Fruit Defined

(Definitions are taken from Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words).

Galatians 5:22-23.

The word "fruit" is used in several places in the King James Version. In Galatians 5:22, "... the singular form suggesting the unity of the character of the Lord..." (Page 473)<sup>143</sup> is used. The fruit of the spirit has several different aspects. There is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Just as the fruit tree must produce fruit or else be cut down, so the Christian is expected to produce fruit.

### 1. Love

"Love can be known only from the actions it prompts."<sup>144</sup> (Page 703)

This is a love that is not based on a response from the one being loved. This is especially seen in God's love. "In respect of agapao as used of God, it expresses the deep and constant love and interest of a perfect being towards entirely unworthy objects..."<sup>145</sup>

Agapao is better understood by comparing it with phileo (another word for love).

"Phileo...is to be distinguished from agapao in this, that phileo more nearly represents tender affection."<sup>146</sup>

Phileo is love based on another's response. "I love Him, because He loves me." In contrast, agapao says, "I love regardless". Note: I Corinthians 13 explains love better than any commentary or word study.

### 2. Joy

Joy is not just a giddy feeling. It is closely associated with genuine peace and contentment. One's joy is only as high as his sorrow is deep.

"Experiences of sorrow prepare for, and enlarge, the capacity for joy, e.g., John 16:20 ... Persecution for Christ's sake enhances joy, e.g., Matthew 5:11, 12 (Page 619)."<sup>147</sup>

### 3. Peace

Peace is "... the harmonized relationships between God and man..." (Page 852).<sup>148</sup>

With this portion of the fruit, one can dwell among men without contention. It is as the little sparrow who hides snugly in the cliff of a rock while the storm is raging. It is that element that keeps you tied down in the harbor when the other ships are being tossed to and fro in the sea.

4. Longsuffering

“...longsuffering... is rendered patience” in Hebrews 6:12, James 5:10 (Page 694).<sup>149</sup>

It is forbearance. This allows one to bear other’s shortcomings. It also gives one the ability to endure.

5. Kindness

It is: “... used of goodness of heart...” (Page 632).<sup>150</sup> The Holy Ghost removes the cruel nature of man and replaces it with kindness. The individual who rejoices in other’s calamities is far from being a possessor of this fruit. It is not weakness for a man to be gentle and kind. This kindness must stem from the heart.

6. Goodness (p. 503)

Some seem to be continually into evil. Our heart should be overflowing with the deeds of goodness. Goodness should be a moral quality. Our light is shining when men can see us pass and say to another, “There goes a good man.”

7. Faith (p. 411)

This word is the same one that is used for the gift of the spirit. All Christians should bear this fruit. It is that element of trust that one has in God. Our faith is not predicated on circumstances. Romans 12:3 speaks of every man having a measure of faith. Every man has within him the capacity to trust in God.

8. Meekness

“...It is an inwrought grace of the soul; and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God. It is only the humble heart which is also the meek, and which, as such, does not fight against God, and more or less struggle and contend with Him.” (Page 737)<sup>151</sup>

It is especially related to humility, our meekness toward God allows us to live meekly and peacefully among men. It is not feeling sorry for one’s self or dressing in the poorest clothes that we show humility; nor is meekness a haughty and prideful spirit. It is the lowly spirit and attitude that is portrayed by the meek.

9. Temperance

Temperance is self-control. This covers more than just anger. The Christian should lead a life of self-control. It is a disciplined life.

“Enkrateia...from kratos, strength occurs in Acts 24, 25, Galatians 5:23, II Peter 1:6.” (Page 1132)<sup>152</sup>

It is a real strength that allows one to stay organized and remain cool and calm in the midst of unorganization and confusion (Ephesians 5:9-10).

B. Conclusion of List

Of course, every Christian should and must bear the fruit of the spirit. Tongues are the sign that one has received the Holy Ghost, but the fruit of the spirit is the sign that one still has the Holy Ghost.

C. Related Scriptures and Comments on Fruit

1. Matthew 3:8-10. The bearing of fruit is very important. Jesus spoke in parables of the non-bearing fruit tree being cut down.
2. Luke 6:34-35. Known by fruit: A good tree (clean heart) produces good fruit.
3. Matthew 13:8. Good ground produces good fruit. The ground (heart) must be cultivated. Preparation of the soil (heart) is essential. The reason one should be faithful to the house of God is to receive proper care. There will be times that the soil is fertilized and watered. Also at times, fruit production will be enhanced by pruning.
4. Matthew 13:22. Care of world, deceitfulness of riches chokes the word, and one becomes unfruitful.
5. John 12:24. Old man has to die. If he continues to live in the flesh, there will be no fruit.
6. John 15:2 Bearing fruit is essential, and purging (pruning) is required at times. People who skip from church to church usually manage to skip the pruning process, and thus are usually unfruitful.
7. Luke 13:6-9. The Lord seeks fruit.
8. Isaiah 5:2. Israel's example of no fruit and wild grapes.
9. Deuteronomy 32:32. Evil fruit and fruit products.
10. Hebrews 6:8. No fruits leads to rejection and burning.
11. Colossians 1:10. Admonish to be fruitful.
12. Psalm 92:13. If planted in the house of God fruit shall flourish even in old age. The Christian, regardless of age, should never quit producing fruit. It is a continual growth process.

D. Final Comment

1. When the world takes a bite out of the Christian, or steps on him, the taste and fragrance of fruit should still come forth. Just as a heavy foot may seemingly crush a rose, it is actually only allowing the fragrance to escape. Its fragrance, not its thorns, are left on the foot of the one who sought to destroy it.
2. To understand the fruit of the spirit even more, the works of the flesh can be contrasted. If the fruit of the spirit is an example of holiness, the works of the flesh are the very opposite. There is nothing pure, godly, or holy about them. They are simply the products of the "old man".  
Before partaking of something that is questionable, the Christian should ask himself if he is feeling the lust of the flesh or giving strength to the spiritual man.

It can't be both. The flesh and spirit oppose each other, to the degree that one nature is strengthened, the other nature is weakened. If the flesh climbs up the ladder five rungs, the spirit slips down five rungs. With this background, the contrast between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the spirit will be studied.

### III. Works of the Flesh

One partial listing of the works of the flesh is found in Galatians 5:19-21.

1. Adultery: Violation of the marriage contract.
2. Fornication: All sexual sins and perversions. (This is not just sexual sins between unmarried people).
3. Uncleaness: Impure, soiled, filthy, obscene.
4. Lasciviousness: Sensuality, lewdness, lustfulness.
5. Idolatry: Worship of idols. Extreme worship of someone or something. Anything that one becomes a slave to is his idol.
6. Witchcraft: Dealing with evil spirits.
7. Hatred: Extreme dislike.
8. Variance: Difference of opinion.
9. Emulation: Rivalry (may even mean using wrong methods in the quest to excel above someone else).
10. Wrath: Rage, deep indignation, violent anger.
11. Strife: Conflict, rivalry.
12. Seditions: Rebellion against lawful authority.
13. Heresies: Opinion of doctrine contrary to that commonly accepted.
14. Envy: Begrudging prosperity or success of another.
15. Murders: Destroying one, either physically, morally, or spiritually. Destroying one's character and reputation with words is murder.
16. Drunkenness: Being habitually intoxicated.
17. Reveling: Wild gaiety.
18. Bite and Devour: Gossiping so as to destroy another.

AND ALL SUCH LIKE NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. WITHOUT THE GATES SHALL BE: Fearful, unbelieving, abominable, murders, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, all liars, defilers, dogs. (Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:15).

NEITHER SHALL THE: unrighteous, fornicators, idolaters, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. (I Cor. 6:9-10).

B. All would be lost except for the mercy of Jesus Christ. Those who have been liberated from the works of the flesh are not to scoff at others, or be Pharisaical but are to thank the Lord for His mercy, pray for those who are bound and remember:

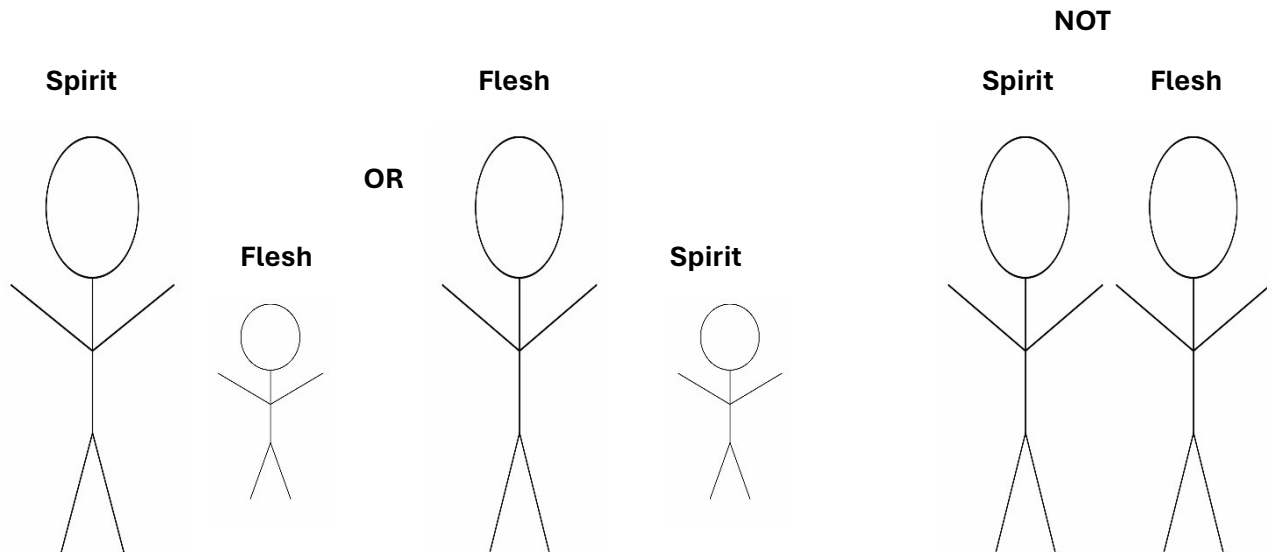
“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” I Cor. 6:11<sup>153</sup>

C. The Nature of Man

After viewing the contrast between the fruit of the Spirit, and the works of the flesh, one can better understand the tug of war the Christian feels a part of at times.

The nature of man is to oppose God and to follow the desires of his flesh. However, the scriptures teach that “...to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God ... so then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” (Romans 8:6-8).<sup>154</sup>

From reading Romans 7 and 8, and Galatians 5:16-18, one can see the warfare of the flesh and spirit. What one nature enjoys, the other despises. What feeds one weakens the other. For example, lust and envy and the works of the flesh give strength to the flesh while weakening the spirit. Likewise, prayer and fasting increase the spiritual man while crucifying the flesh (Romans 8:13). The Christian must recognize this warfare taking place within him and realize that there is only one throne, his heart, and that both the flesh and the spirit are striving to rule and reign in it. The spirit and flesh know nothing of co-existence. This can perhaps be best explained by a picture.



## IV. True Christian Principals

Recommended reading for this lesson is The Measure of a Man by Gene Getz and In His Steps by Charles Sheldon.

With this subject, some may feel we have strayed from the lessons of holiness. But by including it at this time, a point is to be made. Holiness and righteousness are true Christian characteristics that are very broad in application. Some have a very narrow concept of holiness. If a Christian's life does not include principals found in this lesson, he is indeed lacking in his walk of holiness before God.

## A. The Measure of a Man – Press Toward the Mark.

Children growing up will at times put a mark on the wall to measure their growth rate. Terms such as “short, average, and tall” are used to compare one's growth with others. Of course, the terms “short, average, or tall” are relative terms. A 5'10” man is average height in a room filled with men between 5'7” and 6'2”. However, the same 5'10” man is considered short in a room filled with 7'4” basketball stars. In this lesson it is not important how tall one is in physical stature, but the question is, how tall are we in God's eyes? The scripture exhorts the Christian to examine himself (I Corinthians 11:28). The purpose of the examination is to see how one measures up. The scripture warns: “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” I Corinthians 10:12.<sup>155</sup>

In the spiritual measurement there is one measuring device – the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. And when one is compared to Him, I am afraid we are all a little short. One is to strive to be like Christ. The Christian is to walk in Christ's steps (I Peter 2:21).

Now this will not be easy and will require some stretching – for us to walk in Christ's steps. The author remembers hunting in the woods with his father. The father's words were always, “...be quiet, don't make noise.” However, as a young boy, I was always amazed how my dad could walk quietly through the woods without a noise while I followed behind making all sorts of noise. I tried so hard to walk softly, but it seemed that every leaf crackled, and every fallen limb snapped with thunder when I stepped on it. I was fearful that if I did not walk quieter, I would not be able to continue to go squirrel hunting. Finally, I found the secret. I reasoned that if I could step everywhere my dad stepped, I should get the same response (no noise). And it worked! The only problem was that it was hard for my short legs to S-T-R-E-T-C-H out to his normal pace. So it is when one follows Christ. There are times one has to really put forth extra effort to walk where He walked. It may require suffering, patience, praying, fasting and embarrassment.

To get an idea of the kind of path it will be, one simply turns to the Word. In two different passages, a list of Christian characteristics is found (I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-10). When the list is compiled, it is a list of twenty virtues the Christian should possess. The scriptural setting is a format given for ministerial qualifications, however, throughout the Bible, these principals are found to be applicable for all Christians.

## B. The Measuring Stick

1. Above reproach – good reputation, well-spoken of (Acts 16:2). It takes years to build a good reputation but only moments to destroy it. Keep your word. Pay your bills. If you know you can't afford an item do not buy it or put it on a credit card. Guard your reputation.
2. Husband of one wife – loyalty to your wife is required. And also, a hidden meaning often skipped over. BE A HUSBAND! Love your wife as Christ loves the Church. A husband is more than a title.
3. Template – clear perspective. Don't lose physical, psychological, or spiritual orientation. Self-control in anger, eating, spending, etc. Be sober.
4. Prudent – sober. Don't think higher of yourself than you should (Romans 12:3). No one is God's special gift to the Church.
5. Respectable – good behavior, well behaved, well arrayed. Same word is used to describe the way a woman should dress (I Timothy 2:9) as modest. What do your neighbors think about you? Is your yard, housework (outside and inside) helping or hindering your testimony? (I Corinthians 10:31-33). Give no offense – which would include your own hygiene. Do sinners have the concept all Christians live like pigs by your personal appearance or your home? You don't have to be rich to have the proper amount of pride and be clean. If you can't take care of what you have, can God trust you with something nicer? (Matthew 25:21). If your car is a junker, let it be a clean junker. Your behavior should be good among outsiders (I Peter 2:12). Break bad habits, such as being late for work and late for church. A Christian should be the best employee on a job. Because your life is an epistle, known and read by others (II Corinthians 3:2). It is not so much what you say, but what you do. Actions, negative or positive, speak louder than words.
6. Hospitable – (Leviticus 19:34, Hebrews 13:2) – Be nice to strangers, you may be entertaining angels unaware, love your neighbors as thyself. Possessing this virtue does not eradicate the use of wisdom and discretion in regard to tramps, hitchhikers, and using discernment with strangers. However, a guest in your home should feel a relaxed atmosphere. The home should be an oasis for the weary.
7. Able to teach – before one can teach, they must be teachable. To be a good leader, one must first be a good follower.
8. Not addicted to wine – but filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). Wine is a mocker, and its byproducts as a bite of a serpent (Proverbs 23:29-34).
9. Not self-willed – self-pleasing or arrogant. God cannot use the man who is his own authority, does not receive instructions from anyone. Conducts himself as a dictator.
10. Quick-tempered – let not the sun go down on your wrath. Prolonged anger, or anger that seeks revenge is sin. It is not an Irish temper; it is selfishness and being self-centered. These folks usually as children are spoiled and scream and cry if they don't get their way. When they become adults, they are still spoiled, if they don't get their way, they have a temper tantrum. We should be slow to speak, slow to wrath.  
Related scriptures: Proverbs 22:24-25, Ephesians 4:26, James 1:19-20.



11. Not pugnacious (striker) – physical and verbal attack. It is easier in many cases to recover from broken bones than character assassinations received from unharnessed tongues.
12. Contentious – takes opposite view, can't work with others. Can't disagree without being disagreeable.
13. Gentle - Matthew 5:5 – patience, kindness. Free from the love of money; Seek ye first the kingdom – get your priorities straight. Reach for people because you want salvation for their souls, not dollar signs.
14. Manage your household well – parents must lead their children to God. Create a spiritual atmosphere in your home. Don't let church be the only training ground for your children. Children should learn about Christ in the home.
15. Good reputation with those outside of church (Colossians 4:5-6). Be respectable, how do outsiders view you? You should be known as someone who can be depended on and is trustworthy. The Christian life should exemplify to the outsiders the twelve points of the Boy Scout Law: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.
16. Loving what is good – desire to be good.
17. Just – be wise, make the right decisions.
18. Devout – be holy and sincere.
19. Not a novice – instant success can destroy people. A novice is a young tree whose limbs are not strong enough to bear the weight of the fruit. God will honor faithfulness and consistency year after year.

V. Conclusion

This concludes the series involving holiness of the inward man. However, it does not finalize the lesson on holiness. The next lesson involves the outward man. It is just as essential as the discussions on the inward man. To abide by Scriptural definitions of holiness, the spirit and the flesh must be holy (II Corinthians 7:1). Peter spoke of the hidden man of the heart (spirit) and the adorning of the outward man in his holiness teaching (I Peter 3:3-5).