

GENUINE: WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

ATTITUDE & ACTION: THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:16-26



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Pastor Jeff Robinson

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THE FRUIT OF YOUR LIFE INDICATES WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE A GENUINE FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST.

Context of Galatians: Don't return to legalism! 5:1 *For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

Attitude and Action indicators

- Recognize there's a war between your **flesh** and the Spirit – 5:16-17
But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

- Regeneration makes true **freedom** possible – 5:18
But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.¹

- Indicators that we need Jesus – 5:19-21
Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1) Immorality

- Sexual immorality: sex before or outside of heterosexual monogamous marriage.
- Impurity: twisted thinking is the default.
- Sensuality/Debauchery: loss of self-restraint.

2) Idolatry

- Idolatry: creating a god to suit your sins.
- Sorcery (Occult activity): attempting to bypass God through Satanic activity.

3) Animosity

- Enmity/Hatred: simmering attitude of hostility towards others.
- Strife/Discord: chronic conflict with others.
- Jealousy: intense negative feelings over another's achievements or success.
- Fits of anger: consistent eruptions.
- Rivalries/Selfish ambition: consistent agenda to glorify yourself rather than God.
- Dissensions and divisions: A drive to divide people for personal gain rather than unite for God's glory.
- Envy: jealousy in action.

4) Self-indulgence

- Drunkenness & orgies.

Q: What do these practices indicate?

A: *"I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."* - 5:21

John Walvoord: "This does not say that a Christian loses his salvation if he lapses into a sin of the flesh, but that a person who lives continually on such a level of moral corruption gives evidence of not being a child of God."²

Evidence of a genuine follower of Jesus Christ

Q: What is the "Fruit of the Spirit?"

A: A metaphor for the qualities and attitudes that God cultivates in a genuine follower of Jesus Christ.

- **Fruit** of the Holy Spirit – 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- Conscious effort to declare **war** on the old way of life – 5:24-26

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Rededication is not a word found in the Bible. *Repent* is all through it.³

Q: How do I respond?

- Connect Card: "I received Christ."
- Connect Card: "I would like to be baptized." Place in the buckets by the doors or at the Next Steps Center.
- Website: <http://gogracefellowship.org> "My response."
- App: "My response."
- Speak with a staff member.

Key: flesh/freedom/Fruit/war

¹ Kenneth Wuest: "The Holy Spirit is not a perpetual motion machine which operates automatically in the life of the believer. He is a divine Person waiting to be depended upon for His ministry, and expecting the saint to cooperate with Him in it. Thus the choice lies with the believer as to whether he is going to yield to the Holy Spirit or obey the evil nature. The Spirit is always there to give him victory over that nature as the saint says a point-blank NO to sin and at the same time trusts the Spirit to give him victory over it." Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English reader* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), Galatians 5:16, in *Logos Library Systems*.

² John F. Walvoord & Roy B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983), Galatians 5:21, in *Logos Library Systems*.

³ John Calvin: "But in this way, we shall be told, all are cut off from the hope of salvation; for who is there that is not chargeable with some of those sins? I reply, Paul does not threaten that all who have sinned, but that all who remain impenitent, shall be excluded from the kingdom of God. The saints themselves often fall into grievous sins, but they return to the path of righteousness . . . (Romans 7:15) and therefore they are not included in this catalogue. All threatenings of the judgments of God call us to repentance. They are accompanied by a promise that those who repent will obtain forgiveness; but if we continue obstinate, they remain as a testimony from heaven against us." John Calvin, *Commentary on Galatians and Ephesians* (Grand Rapids, MI: Christian Classics Ethereal Library, accessed September 27, 2018), 135. <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/calcom41.pdf>.