

INTRODUCTION

1. Please take God's Word and turn with me to Galatians chapter 5.
2. We are looking again at verse 22.
3. We are in a series talking about "Bad and Good Habits" or "Bad and Good Fruit."
4. All of us have habits or fruit in our lives.
5. The question is which kind are we producing.
6. If the "habit" or "practice" of our lives is the deeds of the flesh, Paul says in Galatians

5:21 “those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

7. So it is important that we do a daily examination of our lives because sin is deceptive.
8. And as John Owen well said, “If you’re not killing sin, it will be killing you.”
9. The good habits aren’t produced by the flesh.
10. They are produced by the Spirit as you yield to His control.
11. This is the results of obeying Ephesians 5:18 which says, “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be

filled with the Spirit.”

12. When you're filled or literally controlled by the Spirit, He will produce "fruit" in your lives.
13. What is that fruit?
14. In Ephesians 5:19-6:4 it is praise (v.19), thanksgiving (v.20), submission (v.21-24), sacrificial love (v.25), purifying love (v.26), caring love (v.28), unbreakable love (v.31), obedience to parents (6:1).
15. In Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB), it is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, (and) self-control."

16. One author says, “The works of the flesh are many, (and) are in a measure independent of each other. It cannot be said that every unregenerate man commits all of them. But he who has the Spirit of Christ has in him the root of all Christian graces.”¹
17. So then “*The fruit of the Spirit* is the moral character developed by the power of the Spirit.
18. The nine character qualities are a unity, a perfectly formed Christlike character.
19. Paul has expressed his desire to see Christ formed in the Galatian believers (4:19).

¹ The Cambridge Bible

20. Now he describes what they will be like when that formation is complete.”²
21. This morning we are looking at the second characteristic of a yielded, Spirit-filled believer, and that is joy.
22. Last time we looked at the first characteristic which is love and learned that love is defined by action.
23. And in the case of Galatians 5:22 both attitude and action are implied.
24. We saw in 1 Corinthians 13, which is the love chapter, that Paul gives us a description of love because the best way to define it is by what it does.

² Walter G. Hansen, Galatians.

25. “Love is the focus of the entire ethical appeal: “serve one another in love” (v. 13). Love fulfills the law (v. 14); love is the expression of faith (v. 6). Love is demonstrated in a tangible way in the sacrificial love of Christ (2:20) and the service of Christians (5:13). All the other moral qualities in the list define and flow from love.”³
26. Now as we look at joy, we too, will see both the attitude and action as it is produced by the Holy Spirit in the yielded child of God.
27. Scriptures equally state that joy is from God.
28. That’s good to hear because this one is hard to manufacture.

³ Ibid., Hansen.

29. It's called "the joy of the Holy Spirit" in 1 Thessalonians 1:6.
30. Paul reminds the believers at Rome in Romans 14:17 (NASB) "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."
31. Just like love, joy comes from the Holy Spirit.
32. So as we yield to the Spirit of God, He will produce all of these godly attitudes in our lives.
33. So what is joy?
34. We know where it comes from but what is it?

LESSON

I. What is Joy?

A. “Joy” (chara) is “the deep-down sense of well-being that abides in the heart of the person who knows all is well between himself and the Lord.”⁴

B. It is not an experience that comes from favorable circumstances or even a human emotion that is divinely stimulated

II. Joy is God’s Gift to Believers

A. Joy is part of God’s own nature and Spirit that He manifests in His children

⁴ John MacArthur, Galatians: The MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

- B. It is seen in Nehemiah 8:10 as “strength.” It says, “The joy of the Lord is your strength” (NASB).
- C. R.C.H. Lenski says, “With this love goes “joy.” This is a remarkable combination that was written by the man who composed 2 Cor. 6:4–10 on the basis of his own experience, yet note that “always rejoicing” appears even in this list (v. 10).”⁵
- D. 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 (NASB) “giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, 4 but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, 5 in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in

⁵ R.C.H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of St. Paul's Epistles to the Galatians, to the Ephesians and to the Philippians*.

hunger, 6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, 7 in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, 8 by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; 9 as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, 10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.”

III. Joy is Not Affected By Circumstances

A. Notice again what 2 Corinthians 6:10 says, “as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.”

B. “This joy rises above circumstances and focuses on the very character of God.”⁶

C. John Gill says, “yet always rejoicing; not in themselves, or in any creature, but in the Lord, in the Person, blood, and righteousness of Christ, and salvation by him.”⁷

D. Acts 16 Reveals Joy in the Midst of Suffering

IV. **God is Always the Object of this Kind of Joy**

A. The Reason

1. 1 Chronicles 16:27 (NASB) where it says, “Splendor and majesty are

⁶ Ronald Youngblood, 2 Corinthians.

⁷ John Gill, Commentary on the Whole Bible

before Him, strength and joy are in His place.”

2. Psalms 16:11 (NASB) You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

B. God Gives and Causes Joy

1. Nehemiah 12:43 (NASB) and on that day (the completion of the walls) they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great joy, even the women and children rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard from afar.”

2. The cause is linked to the hope He gives - (NASB) “we exult in hope of the glory of God.”

“Exults” means “to show or feel a lively or triumphant joy; rejoice exceedingly; be highly elated or jubilant.”⁸

V. Even Though Joy Comes From God We Are to Rejoice

A. All the Time

Philippians 4:4 (NASB) Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Murray Harris said, “This joy is “in the Lord” (cf. Phil. 3:1; 4:4) in the sense that he is its object (cf. Rom. 5:11; Ps. 32:11;

⁸ Dictionary.com

64:10) and it is prompted by having or remembering all the spiritual benefits afforded those “in Christ.” Because those benefits are unchanging, the joy can be constant.”⁹

B. With Song

Psalms 5:11 (NASB) But let all who take refuge in You be glad, let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your name may exult in You.

C. In the Midst of Persecution

1. Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 15:16 (NASB) Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my

⁹ Murray J. Harris, [The Second Epistle to the Corinthians: A Commentary on the Greek Text](#)

heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.

2. Matthew 5:10-12 (NASB) Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

VI. What Cause is Our Rejoicing

A. The Lord

1. Philippians 4:4 (NASB) “Rejoice in the Lord.”
2. Psalms 149:2 (NASB) Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King.
3. Philippians 3:3 (NASB) for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.

B. Our Election

1. Luke 10:20 (NASB) Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

2. Revelation 13:8 (NASB) All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

C. Our Salvation

Psalms 21:1 (NASB) O Lord, in Your strength the king will be glad, and in Your salvation how greatly he will rejoice!

D. For Deliverance from Bondage (from Egypt)

Psalms 105:43 (NASB) And He brought forth His people with joy, His chosen ones with a joyful shout.

E. For the Victory of Christ

John 16:33 (NASB) These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage (be of good cheer); I have overcome the world.”

CONCLUSION

Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB) 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.

1. Do you have this?

2. You do if you are a yielded follower of Jesus Christ.
3. As to yielding, it is moment by moment.
4. One minute you are and the next you're not.
5. Remember that.
6. If you're not experiencing the fruit of the Spirit, it's because you're not "walking by the Spirit" (v.16).
7. That means you're not yielding to the Spirit.
8. Jesus said in John 15:1-5 (NASB) "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that

bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

9. Let's continue to abide in Christ and bear fruit for His glory.
10. If you don't know the Savior, you can right now by believing, confessing Him as Lord and turning away from your sin.
11. Let's pray.

