

By Their Fruits You Shall Know Them – And Yourself!

Read Matthew 7:15-20

- **Know** is not the same as **judge**
 - (Matt 7:1 Judge not... i.e. “**decide**” = “**sentence**”
 - Know = “**recognize**” i.e. discern
- **Fruit** does **not** equal **works** – big **mistake!**
 - We can’t look upon the **heart** – only God can

So What is Fruit?

- Fruit = “karpos” = **fruit!**
 - But this is the **Fruit of the Spirit!**

Read Galatians 5:22-23

- Contrast with the **works of the flesh** (vv 19-21)
 - **Flesh produces works** – **Spirit produces fruit**
- **Fruit** not like **gifts** – we **get one seed** at salvation for them **all!**
 - i.e. **Fruit** not **Fruits**
 1. **Love:** Agape – only from God through Jesus
 - An **action** – must **give it away**
 2. **Joy:** Function of **salvation**
 - Constant, not dependent upon **circumstances** – but must **opt to receive it**
 3. **Peace:** it “*passeth understanding*” because it is **supernatural**
 - Again, only can get it from/through **Jesus**
 4. **Long-Suffering (Patience):** “Love on trial”
 - Patience = **expectant waiting**, ready to spring into action
 5. **Gentleness:** “wise as serpents, **harmless** as doves” Matt 10:16
 - “*restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness*” (Gal 6:1)
 6. **Goodness:** “holiness put into practice”
 - “*let us do good to all*” Gal 6:10 i.e. **not harm**
 7. **Faith:** not **saving faith** – not the **gift of faith** (move mountains)
 - this is the faith that **increases** and is what we operate in moment to moment
 8. **Meekness:** humility, **not weakness** but **controlled strength**
 - free from **rebellion** and **pride**
 - like Christ – the **lion** who acted like a **lamb**
 9. **Temperance – self-control:**
 - “*everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things*”. (1Cor 9:25)
 - “*add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.*” (2Peter 1:5)