

GALATIANS

Keep In Step with the Spirit

Scriptures:

Galatians 5:16-26

John 14:15-20

Ephesians 4:29-32

THE DEFINITIONS OF THE FRUIT

Use this guide to consider: 1. How do these attributes relate to Jesus? 2. In what ways are you “keeping in step with the Spirit” by walking this way? 3. In what ways might you have the appearance of fruit that is simply a counterfeit?

1 Agape – love

- Definition – To serve a person for their good and intrinsic value, not for what the person brings you.
- Opposite – Fear: self-protection and abusing people.
- Counterfeit – Selfish affection. Rescuing someone but really rescuing self. Attracted not to person, but to how this person’s love makes you feel about yourself.

2. Chara – joy

- Definition – Delight in God and his salvation for sheer beauty and worth of who he is.
- Opposite – Hopelessness, despair.
- Counterfeit – Elation that comes with blessings not the Blessor! Mood swings based on circumstances.

3. Irene – peace

- Definition – Confidence and rest in the wisdom and sovereignty of God more than your own
- Opposite – Anxiety and worry
- Counterfeit – Indifference, apathy, not caring about something. “I don’t care.”

4. Makrothumia – patience

- Definition – Ability to take trouble (from others or life) without blowing. To suffer joyfully.
- Opposite – Resentment toward God and others.
- Counterfeit – Cynicism. Self-righteousness. “This is too small to be bothered about.”

5. Chrestotes – kindness

- Definition – Practical kindness with vulnerability out of deep inner security.
- Opposite – Envy. Unable to rejoice other’s joy
- Counterfeit – Manipulative good deeds. “Right hand knowing what left hand is doing.” Self-congratulation and self-righteousness.

6. Agathosune – goodness (integrity)

- Definition – Honesty, transparency. Being the same in one situation as another.
- Opposite – Phoniness; hypocrisy.
- Counterfeit – Truth without love. “Getting it off the chest” for your sake.

7. Pistis – faithfulness

- Definition – Loyalty. Courage. To be principle-driven, committed, utterly 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.

8. Prautas – gentleness (humility)

- Definition – Self-forgetfulness.
- Opposite – Superiority: self-absorbed self-aggrandizement.
- Counterfeit – Inferiority: self-absorbed, self-consciousness.

9. 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.

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