

Fruit on the Vine: Joy Galatians 5:16-24

INTRODUCTION

We continue our study on the **Fruit of the Spirit**. What is the fruit of the Spirit? **It's not nine different ways to live a better life. It is the character of Jesus that God grows in you.**

For this morning, we continue to look at this nine-flavored fruit in detail as we consider the fruit of joy.

There is such a lack of joy in the world today. **Sure, there is plenty of laughter and entertainment, but that all fades away as soon as the movie is over, or you turn off the TV.** So many people are unhappy, dissatisfied, and unfulfilled. They get angry and upset over so many things. They keep looking for joy in all the wrong places – places like money, power, or pleasure. Well, here's the deal. Money can't buy you love, and it can't buy you joy either!

Now, it makes sense that there would be a lack of joy in the world. But it doesn't make any sense for the church or for the Christian. **As believers in Jesus, we should be joy-filled not joyless.** Joy is part of the fruit of the Spirit and will be a natural part of our lives when we are connected to the Vine.

Like the other fruit of the Spirit, joy is not something we produce on our own. Rather, it is a supernatural result of belonging to the One who is pure joy.

I. Joy _____: what is _____?

The word itself is not terribly complicated to **define**. It is basically synonymous with happiness, gladness, or what older theologians called "***blessedness***". The authoritative Greek lexicon (or wordbook) defines the Greek word translated "***joy***" here as "***the experience of gladness***."

So, is joy the same as happiness? Well, yes and no.

A. _____ joy

1. Times of _____

2. Times of _____

3. _____

4. _____ joy

5. The joy of _____

So, what's the **difference**? The difference is not **between happiness and joy themselves, but between the _____, the _____ and _____ of our joy/happiness.**

B. _____ joy

What's peculiar...special about Christian joy?

1. Christian joy is not _____ on
circumstances (Habakkuk 3:17-18;
2 Cor 7:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

2. Christian joy is a _____ you
make (Psalm 32:11; Philippians 4:4)

3. Joy comes from _____ and
_____ the Lord (Psalm 5:11, 105:3;
James 1:2-3)

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning?

How about **this**: Joy draws from _____ and leads to
_____. Joy brings _____ to God, helps you
_____ to those around you with a God-honoring,
Christ-exalting _____ and will bring you _____
the hard times.