
Walking In The Spirit, Part VIII (The Brotherly Relationship)

The Walk of Holiness

Pastor Wil Nichols

November 29, 2020

Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

Sermon: The Walk of Holiness: Walking In The Spirit, Part VIII (The Brotherly Relationship)

Lesson Text

Galatians 5:22–26 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Hebrews 13:1–5 (AV)¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³ Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; *and* them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. ⁴ Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. ⁵ *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Ephesians 4:26–27 (AV)²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷ Neither give place to the devil.

Introduction

The three weapons we are given to defeat the tricks of the enemy (lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life) are three categories of the fruit of the Spirit:

- The Divine Fruit from our Relationship with God (Love, Joy, Peace)
- The Brotherly Fruit from Relationship with Each Other (Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness)
- The Personal Fruit from our Relationship with Self (Faith, Meekness, Temperance)

Last week, we looked at the first category of Fruit (Love, Joy, and Peace) that's produced as a result of our relationship with God. We produce a Love that can never fail during times of hatred, a Joy that gives us strength during times of depression, and a Peace that passes all understanding that guards our hearts during times of trouble

Now, we will look at the second set of Fruit (Longsuffering, Gentleness, and Goodness). These are the elements of the Fruit of the Spirit that are produced by and for our relationships with each other.

What Hebrews 13 teaches us is what God wants from our relationships with each other. But what Ephesians 4 teach us is what these relationships do to us. They create a quandary or dilemma!

Although God has called us to be in relationship with people, to help people, to love and marry people. These same people can be our greatest consternation (anxiety, stress, and frustration).

One minute there is love and happiness, and then someone crosses that thin line and now there is betrayal, hatred, and depression.

And what this brings out of us is anger!

Ephesians 4:26–27 (AV)²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷ Neither give place to the devil.

It is the people that we love and trust that make us the most angry:

- Sometimes it's because they fail to meet our needs. This is known as a ***Failure to Care!***
- Other times it's because they attack us for failing to meet their needs. This is known as a ***Failure to Protect!***

And when anger is produced, it gives the devil the opportunity to enter in with one of his three tricks of sin (lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, or the pride of life). And so, we end up breaking up friendships, ending marriages, estranging families; ultimately destroying brotherly relationships that God has ordained.

When we walk in the Spirit, this category of fruit is produced so that we don't destroy each other, but nourish and strengthen each other.

Series and Sermon: The Walk of Holiness: Walking In The Spirit, Part VIII (The Brotherly Relationship)

“Walking in Brotherly Longsuffering, Brotherly Gentleness, Brotherly Goodness, and Brotherly Relationship with Each Other”

I. Walking in Brotherly Longsuffering

Galatians 5:22 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, ***longsuffering***, ...

One of the main reasons people make us angry is because of their behavior towards us. Whether it is because their behavior is frustrating us by what they are failing to do (Failure to Care); or their behavior is infuriating us by what they are doing (Failure to Protect).

In either case, what we need them to do is change, and they either won't, or they can't.

Ephesians 4:26–27 (AV)²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷ Neither give place to the devil.

And as we stated earlier, this anger gives the devil the opportunity to enter in with one of his three tricks.

Now in order to keep the enemy from getting a foothold to destroy us, we need the Holy Spirit to produce the weapon of longsuffering!

Longsuffering is the element of the fruit of the Spirit that the Holy Spirit produces in us during moments of anger to restrain us so that we don't sin.

Although we don't like it when people make us angry, the bible says that it's impossible but that offenses will occur (Luke 17:1)

However, it is at these moments of anger that Longsuffering is produced so that we can defeat the devil and grow in God!

Psalm 30:5 (AV)⁵ For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.

II. Walking in Brotherly Gentleness

Galatians 5:22 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, **gentleness**...

The next reason people make us angry is because people can be cruel. Sometimes it is that sneaky nice-nasty cruelty, and other times it's downright overt cruelty.

And here comes the anger that causes us to want to clap back, lash back, or get back at the cruelty.

When Jesus was attacked, he could have sent for 12 legions of Angels, but he didn't. Why? Because he had Gentleness.

John 10:17–18 (AV)¹⁷ **Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.**

Gentleness is the element of the Fruit of the Spirit that the Holy Spirit produces so that we are Kind and Compassionate to those who are Cruel to us. It is the Controlled Power of Kindness.

Matthew 5:43–44 (AV)⁴³ **Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. ⁴⁴But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

III. Walking in Brotherly Goodness

Galatians 5:22 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, **goodness**...

The final reason people make us angry is because of evil and its propensity to bring out the evil within us.

Romans 7:21 (AV)²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

And so, the evil in people will just keep pulling and pulling on us until it pulls evil out of us.

Luke 6:45 (AV) ⁴⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Romans 12:18–19 (AV)¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Goodness is the element of the Fruit of the Spirit that the Holy Spirit produces in us so that we are ruled by what is good; to not just do good, but to be good.

Matthew 12:33 (NLT) ³³ “A tree is identified by its fruit. Make a tree good, and its fruit will be good. Make a tree bad, and its fruit will be bad.”

Romans 12:21 (AV) ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

IV. Walking in Brotherly Relationship with Each Other

Hebrews 13:1-2 (AV)¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

The problem we have with people is the fact that they make us angry, and their anger can cause us to sin against the will of God.

- Because people won't or can't change, we need longsuffering
- Because people can be cruel, we need gentleness
- Because people can be influenced by evil, we need goodness.

So why shouldn't we just give up on people, because God didn't give up on us.

Just because people won't change today, doesn't mean that God won't use them someday; so, he needs us to suffer long.

Just because people are cruel, doesn't mean that what Satan meant for evil, God can't turn it around for good; so, he needs us to be gentle so we can pull them out of the snare of the enemy.

Just because people can be influenced by evil, doesn't mean that we can't overcome their evil; so, he needs us to overcome their evil with Good.

We must do this because our calling is to people.

Luke 4:18 (AV)¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Our calling is to love people, to help people, to heal people, to deliver people, to recover people, and to free people.

But we need the Holy Spirit to produce his Fruit in us so that we don't hate people, leave people, get rid of people, forget people, and destroy people.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Walking In The Spirit, Part VIII (The Brotherly Relationship))

Lesson Text

- Galatians 5:22–26, Hebrews 13:1–5, Ephesians 4:26–27

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *Walking in Brotherly Longsuffering*

II. *Walking in Brotherly Gentleness*

III. *Walking in Brotherly Goodness*

IV. *Walking in Brotherly Relationship with Each Other*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday’s Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What is one thing you are super thankful for and don’t acknowledge enough?
2. What do you think the future church will look like?

II. Into the Bible - *Fruit Study*

1. ***Longsuffering*** - Ephesians 4:1-6: How does longsuffering help believers maintain unity with one another?
2. ***Gentleness*** - Titus 3:1-7: Gentleness is translated, kindness and goodness. According to these verses, what role does kindness play in salvation?
3. ***Goodness*** - Ephesians 5:6-10: Explain verse 9 and how goodness helps to prove “what is acceptable unto the Lord”.

III. Life Application

1. What actions do you take to establish and maintain brotherly love in a relationship with another person?
2. You have to provide biblical advice to a person who has been hurt in a relationship about how to continue walking in the love of God. What will you tell them?