

Fruit of the Spirit

- **State of our heart before God –**
 - **Love** – foundational virtue for all other virtues
 - **Towards others** - seeking the good of another even at great personal cost
 - **Towards God** – affectionate trust
 - **Affectionate** – speaks to Father/child relationship which is the core of salvation
 - **Trust** – complete reliance, total dependence; is lived out/expressed as obedience (if you love Me, you will obey My commands)
 - **Description from 1 Corinthians 13.4-7:**
 - **Patient**- KJV ‘suffers long,’ idea is taking a long time before fuming/breaking into flames; long-fuse
 - **Kind**- to do something useful for another
 - **Does not envy**- doesn’t compete w/others for power, possessions, position, privilege, etc.
 - **Does not boast**- is not a windbag, ostentatious, call undue attention to self
 - **Is not proud**- ‘puffed up,’ arrogant
 - **Is not rude**- behave indecently, cause others to blush
 - **Is not self-seeking**- seeks good of others
 - **Is not easily angered**- is not touchy or thin-skinned
 - **Keeps no record of wrongs**- doesn’t keep score; (also love keeps no record of what it’s done right either; doesn’t care about fair)
 - **Does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth**- Jesus’ character as measuring stick for truth
 - **Always protects**-
 - ‘to cover closely’ like a roof 1Pet 4.8
 - ‘to bear,’ Gal 6:2
 - **Always trusts**- not gullible, but doesn’t lose faith
 - **Always hopes**- has an expectation of a better future
 - **Always perseveres**- tenacious, doesn’t give up
 - **Joy** – state of gladness rooted in our relationship with God; has both an internal emotional response and an external action (rejoicing); Christian joy is not shaken by sorrow and tribulation, and indeed gives proof of its power precisely in the midst of them
 - **Happiness**- experience of gladness based on circumstances; differs from joy in duration (temporary vs permanent) and ground (circumstances vs relationship with God)
 - **Peace**- a state of wholeness and well-being that includes both a right relationship with God and loving harmony with one’s fellow human beings; a positive state of wholeness and soundness; rooted in conviction that God is good
- **State of our hearts towards others –**
 - **Patience** - quality of mind that disposes us “to take everything in good part and not to be easily offended;’ the ability to put up with other people even when that is not an easy thing to do; longsuffering towards those who aggravate or persecute; a long-suffering attitude

towards other people, deferring one's anger under provocation, and refusing to retaliate for wrong done to oneself

- If perseverance is bearing up well under difficult circumstances, then patience is bearing up well up difficult people
- **Kindness** – the quality of being helpful or beneficial; not niceness; active word; closely connected to goodness
- **Goodness** – the idea of benevolence and generosity toward someone else, a going the second mile when it is not required; a practical generosity
- **State of our hearts relative to our own desires** –
 - **Gentleness** - not weakness or softness; strength under control, power harnessed in loving service and respectful actions; one who is gentle in this sense will not attempt to push others around or arrogantly impose one's own will on subordinates or peers; humble meekness
 - A smoldering wick He did not snuff out, a bruised reed He did not break
 - **Faithfulness** – fidelity; the quality of being true, trustworthy, and reliable in all one's dealings with others; say what you mean and do what you say
 - **Self-control** - mastery over one's desires and passions