

June 25, 2006

Extreme Makeover – Spirit Edition  
A Makeover Like Only The Spirit Can  
(Introduction to Gal. 5: 19-26)

[Click here for the notes in the bulletin](#)

Gal 5:19-26 NLT

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, 20 idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

22 But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. 26 Let us not become conceited, or irritate one another, or be jealous of one another.

Extreme makeovers are popular today on TV. Seems the most popular right now is the home edition. Someone whose home needs remodeling is picked and a crew comes in to do the work while the family vacations. I believe a family on Long Island was actually chosen for the show.

There was also the plastic surgery edition of extreme makeovers. I guess it all started with that. Don't see that anymore...perhaps too many law suits.

That reminds me of this 40 year old lady who got in a car accident and when she was in the hospital she saw God. She asked Him why it happened and He said she shouldn't worry because she was going to be fine and would actually live for a long, long time. The next day she realized that she should do something to make herself look more attractive since she was going to live a long life. So she contacted a plastic surgeon and he gave her the works (tummy tuck, face lift, new nose etc.). When all the surgery was done she went out the "Ambulance Only" exit on accident. When she walked out an ambulance hit her. At the pearly gates she asked God about it since He said she had a long time to live. He replied "With all that work you had done I didn't recognize you!"

There is another edition of extreme makeover that I want to talk to you about. It is Extreme Makeover – Spirit edition (A Makeover Like Only The Spirit Can!).

Today is going to be an introduction to Gal. 5: 19-26, “The Fruit of the Spirit.” I’ve mentioned the Fruit of the Spirit a few times in recent messages. The Fruit of the Spirit in our lives makes us attractive not only to other Christians but also to the world.

1. BELIEF must equal BEHAVIOR...

Right BELIEF does not necessarily equal right BEHAVIOR  
(Matthew 7:20-23 NLT)

20 Yes, the way to identify a tree or a person is by the kind of fruit that is produced.  
21 "Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but they still won't enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven. 22 On judgment day many will tell me, 'Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Go away; the things you did were unauthorized.'

*Orthodoxy, or right opinion is at best, a very slender part of religion. Though right tempers [behaviors] cannot subsist without right opinions [beliefs], yet right opinions [beliefs] may subsist without right tempers [behaviors]. There may be a right opinion of God without either love or one right temper toward him. Satan is proof of this.*

*-John Wesley*

[You cannot have right behavior without right beliefs, yet you can have right beliefs without right behavior. There may be a belief in God without either love for or obedience to God. The devil believes in God but does not obey Him.]

As believers, our beliefs must translate into behaviors that make us different than non-believers!

2. Galatians 5:19-23a is the ‘acid test’ for BEHAVIOR.

[An “acid test” is a decisive test that establishes the worth or credibility of something]

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, 20 idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

22 But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control.

3. Galatians 5:23b-25 is the ‘acid test’ for BELIEF (James 2:26; Matthew 7:20).

James says “faith without deeds is dead” and Jesus taught, “by their fruit you will recognize them.”

(Galatians 5:23b-25)

Here there is no conflict with the law.

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Belief must equal behavior.

*Your believing must equal your behaving  
Your behaving must equal your believing*

BASIC BELIEFS FOR A MAKOVER LIKE ONLY THE SPIRIT CAN:

1. Think of FRUIT not FRUITS:

The nine qualities that are listed as the *FRUIT* of the Spirit must not be confused as being the *FRUITS* of the Spirit. The picture given to us is not like the picture of going to the grocery store to the produce section and picking and choosing what fruit you want. The Extreme Makeover: Spirit Edition works all this fruit in our lives – not just this one or that one.

My grandfather grew all kinds of fruit in his back yard...in the Bronx! That's right...in the Bronx. Behind his home he had an area about the size of our sanctuary (at least it seemed that big when I was a kid, I maybe surprised if I could see it today) where he grew all kinds of vegetables and fruits. He had grapevines, peach trees, plums, strawberries, mulberries... and when the grandchildren came over we all had our favorite. We would go to the area where our favorite fruit was growing, pick fruit, and eat it right there (come to think of it, I don't remember us washing the fruit first). My favorite was the white mulberry tree (the favorite of chickens, hogs and children like me), which was great because my other cousins liked the more traditional fruit so I had the white mulberries to myself.

When you think of all these kids roaming my grandfather's garden picking and choosing what fruit they would take, it is not the picture that Paul had in mind. He was not thinking of Christians coming along and looking at the list in Gal 5 and picking one out that they liked: “Hmmm, I think I'll pick “joy”; I think I'll major on that one in my life”. Paul doesn't want us to pick this or that fruit. His instruction is to have all this fruit growing in our lives.

We must not confuse the fruit of the spirit with the gifts of the Spirit. When it comes to

the gifts of the Spirit - we get some of the gifts but not all of them. In contrast, when it comes to the fruit of the Spirit – our extreme makeover means grows all this fruit.

2. The connection between the FRUIT and the ROOT:

The fruit is the characteristic that grows in our lives, the root is the character of God out of which the characteristic in our lives grows.

**The Fruit of the Spirit**

Love  
Joy  
Peace  
Patience  
Kindness  
Goodness  
Faithfulness  
Gentleness  
Self-control

**The Character of God**

*...God is love. (1 John 4.8)*  
*He will rejoice over you... (Zephaniah 3.17)*  
*...the God of peace... (Hebrews 13.20)*  
*He is patient with you... (2 Peter 3.9)*  
*...his kindness to us... (Ephesians 2.7)*  
*I will see the goodness of the Lord... (Psalms 27.13)*  
*...great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3.23)*  
*...I am gentle and humble... (Matthew 11.29)*  
*...God, slow to anger... (Exodus 34.6)*

3. The Fruit is to be our ATTRIBUTES:

Now as you look at this list, you might be saying: “yes, but that is what God is like, how can I hope to be like that?”

Paul is not holding out a standard that is impossible that we should just do the best we can with. How do I know that? If you look on in the sermon notes you’ll notice that there is a command in the Scripture to possess each of the fruit of the Spirit.

**The Fruit of the Spirit**

Love  
Joy  
Peace  
Patience  
Kindness  
Goodness  
Faithfulness  
Gentleness  
Self-control

**The Command in the Scripture**

*...love your ENEMIES... (Matthew 5.44)*  
*Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS. (Philippians 4.4)*  
*...live at peace with EVERYONE. (Romans 12:18)*  
*...be patient with EVERYONE... (1 Thessalonians 5.14)*  
*...CLOTHE yourself with... kindness... (Colossians 3.12)*  
*...let us do good to ALL people... (Galatians 6.10)*  
*Be faithful, even to the point of DEATH. (Revelation 2.10)*  
*...show true humility toward ALL men. (Titus 3.2)*  
*BE self-controlled and alert. (1 Peter 5.8)*

Did you notice the words in those verses that I underlined? You see, the fruit of the spirit is to be a life quality that is not turned on or off. Every one of us show each of the nine fruit of the Spirit at times. It is not the issue of whether or not . . . am I patient at times? or am I good at times? or am I loving at times? or do I have joy at times? Those are not the questions to ask . . . we can all say yes to that. We must understand that this is a standard for life.

How is all this possible?

#### APPLICATION:

A Makeover like only the Spirit Can is a result of two things:

##### 1. God's RESOLVE.

The Spirit's resolve for our lives is that the passions and desires of the human nature be replaced with the fruit of the Spirit.

*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its **passions and desires**.*

*-Galatians 5:24*

**Passions and desires** refer to the **acts of the sinful nature** that are noted in verse 19. These are the natural result of human nature trying to live by its own power under the law

(v.18 - But when you are directed by the Holy Spirit, you are no longer subject to the law).

Romans 6:6 refers to our sinful nature and helps us understand that on our own power – even if we fight and struggle to live according to the law... we remain...

*...**slaves to SIN***

*-Romans 6:6*

Romans 6:18 provides the contrast of the Spirit's resolve for our lives...

*You have been set free from sin and have become **slaves to RIGHTEOUSNESS**.*

*-Romans 6:18*

How is this possible? The Scripture tells us how it's possible in 2 Corinthians 5:17,18a:

*Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone,*

*[Refers to acts of sinful nature in Galatians 5:19-21]*

*the new has come!*

*[Refers to fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5:22-23]*

***All this is from God.***

*-2 Corinthians 5:17,18a*

##### 2. Our RESPONSE.

A slogan on a teenager's T-shirt:

*Your team can make you hustle . . .*

*Your coach can put you on the team . . .*

*A scout can give you a scholarship . . .*

*But only you can make you a player!*

We not only need to have God's Holy Spirit at work in us, but we must obediently respond to the prompting of the Spirit in our lives. As the Scripture that we read indicates: *Since we live by the Spirit, let us **keep in step** with the Spirit (v.25)*

How do we keep in step with the Spirit?

a) BELIEVE.

*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*  
-2 Corinthians 12.9

b) ASK.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*  
-Psalm 139.23-24

c) OBEY.

*Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.*  
-Hebrews 4.7