

Fruit of the Spirit — 9-Week Sermon Series

Nine Sundays, one fruit each — Galatians 5:22-23 preached slowly enough to be examined rather than admired.

Whole-church series; strong summer or small-group series

About this series

Fruit is singular in Galatians 5:22. Nine qualities, one crop — which means you cannot pick the ones that suit your temperament.

Each week takes one fruit, defines it from Scripture rather than sentiment, and ends with a question the congregation can answer honestly.

The arc of the series

Love shapes the eight that follow. Weeks 1-3 concern God-ward disposition, weeks 4-6 concern others, weeks 7-9 concern the self.

Planning notes

- Nine weeks is long; a mid-series testimony Sunday keeps momentum.
- Pair each week with a memory verse card for the congregation.
- Consider ending with a communion service on temperance.

Love

Big idea

Biblical love is a decision that behaves, not a feeling that speaks.

Outline

1. Love defined by action (1 Cor 13:4-7)
2. Love as the first fruit
3. Love toward the difficult

Key verse

Charity suffereth long, and is kind.

1 Corinthians 13:4 (KJV)

Application question

Who is hardest for you to love, and what would love actually do this week?

Sermon notes

Joy

Big idea

Joy is not the absence of trouble but the presence of God in it.

Outline

1. Joy distinguished from happiness
2. Joy in tribulation
3. The joy of the Lord as strength

Key verse

The joy of the LORD is your strength.

Nehemiah 8:10 (KJV)

Application question

What have you made a condition of your joy?

Sermon notes

Peace

Big idea

Peace with God comes first; the peace of God follows.

Outline

1. Peace with God (Rom 5:1)
2. The peace of God (Phil 4:7)
3. Peace with one another (Rom 12:18)

Key verse

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

John 14:27 (KJV)

Application question

Where are you at war that you could make peace?

Sermon notes

Longsuffering

Big idea

Patience is love's endurance under provocation.

Outline

1. God's longsuffering toward us
2. Patience with people
3. Patience with process

Key verse

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise... but is longsuffering to us-ward.

2 Peter 3:9 (KJV)

Application question

Who tests your patience most, and what does God's patience with you say about it?

Sermon notes

Gentleness

Big idea

Gentleness is strength deliberately restrained.

Outline

1. The gentleness of Christ
2. Gentle speech
3. Gentleness in correction

Key verse

A soft answer turneth away wrath.

Proverbs 15:1 (KJV)

Application question

Where have you used force because it was faster?

Sermon notes

Goodness

Big idea

Goodness is generosity in action, not merely the absence of wrong.

Outline

1. Good works prepared beforehand
2. Doing good to all men (Gal 6:10)
3. Goodness that costs

Key verse

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.

Galatians 6:10 (KJV)

Application question

What good could you do this week that no one would ever repay?

Sermon notes

Faith

Big idea

Here the word means faithfulness — being someone whose word holds.

Outline

1. Faithful in little (Luke 16:10)
2. Faithfulness over brilliance
3. The faithfulness of God as the pattern

Key verse

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much.

Luke 16:10 (KJV)

Application question

What commitment have you quietly let slide?

Sermon notes

Meekness

Big idea

Meekness is not weakness; Moses and Christ are the Bible's two examples.

Outline

1. Meek and lowly in heart
2. Meekness in receiving correction (James 1:21)
3. The meek shall inherit the earth

Key verse

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart.

Matthew 11:29 (KJV)

Application question

When were you last corrected, and how did you take it?

Sermon notes

Temperance

Big idea

Self-control is the fruit that guards the other eight.

Outline

1. Bringing the body into subjection
2. Appetite, anger, and attention
3. The Spirit's work, not willpower alone

Key verse

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Proverbs 25:28 (KJV)

Application question

Which appetite currently rules you?

Sermon notes

Verse set — the whole series at a glance

Every key verse in this series, King James Version. Print this page for the worship team, the bulletin, or a memory-verse card.

Week 1 — Love

Charity suffereth long, and is kind.

1 Corinthians 13:4 (KJV)

Week 2 — Joy

The joy of the LORD is your strength.

Nehemiah 8:10 (KJV)

Week 3 — Peace

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

John 14:27 (KJV)

Week 4 — Longsuffering

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise... but is longsuffering to us-ward.

2 Peter 3:9 (KJV)

Week 5 — Gentleness

A soft answer turneth away wrath.

Proverbs 15:1 (KJV)

Week 6 — Goodness

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.

Galatians 6:10 (KJV)

Week 7 — Faith

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much.

Luke 16:10 (KJV)

Week 8 — Meekness

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart.

Matthew 11:29 (KJV)

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Proverbs 25:28 (KJV)

Frequently asked questions

Why nine weeks?

Galatians 5:22-23 names nine qualities. Preaching one per Sunday gives each its own weight.

Can it be shortened?

Yes — group them three by three for a three-week series.

Is the series free to use?

Yes — free to preach, adapt, and print for your church.

More free KJV preaching resources at biblesundays.com/for-pastors — sermon outlines, Sunday service readings, printables, and free Bible widgets for your church website.