

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 Bible Study Notes
Cedarville United Presbyterian Church Facebook Live
Fruit of the Spirit Series: Self-Control
Text: James 1:19-27

Summer Series: Fruit of the Spirit

- Love – what does it mean to love God, love our neighbor, love our enemy, love ourselves?
- Joy – “rejoice always”; “the joy of the Lord is my strength”
- Peace – seek peace and pursue it... dig around for it because it doesn’t come naturally
- Patience – how do we become satisfied with what Christ offers?
- Kindness – kindness of Christ when talking with the woman caught in adultery, and kindness when dealing with our own sin; kindness when restoring Peter, we can all be restored
- Goodness – we put our own definition of “good” and “bad” on God
- Generosity – God showed generosity toward the more vulnerable
- Faithfulness – what we do with what God gives us
- Gentleness – what are we yoking ourselves to?
- Self-control – what do we need to say yes / no to?

Tonight – what does self-control look like in our lives today when it comes to our temper and our tongue?

19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.

- A threefold injunction...be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry
- In an argument the one who is listening to understand rather than listening just enough to respond is in the stronger position
- Anger will not produce the righteous life that God desires

21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

- We are admonished to put away all moral filth (*ry-PAR-ee-an*, root word “shabby”)
- We are to humbly receive the implanted Word.
- “Planted” here is in contrast to grafted. The Word has to be rooted in the fertile soil of our soul. It is something we have to cultivate in ourselves. We can’t take someone else’s faithfulness and claim it as our own. (Remember the parable of the Ten Virgins, where five of them had oil in their lamps and five didn’t—the five who didn’t wanted to borrow oil.)

22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24 for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

- It isn't enough to just read/hear the Word. We need to live it out. We need to do what it says
- From The New Bible Commentary: *"The growing numbers of sermon-sippers who flit from one doctrinal dessert to another like helpless hummingbirds are deceiving themselves."*
- "Deceiving" means "to cheat or deceive by false reasoning."
- The one who listens and does nothing is like someone who glances at his/her face in a mirror and then forgets. The word for "look into" literally means "to stoop down" in order to have a good close look.
- Law seems to imply restraint and therefore a lack of freedom. Not so with God's Law. His perfect Law provides true freedom.

26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

- One who is truly religious will demonstrate it by controlled speech
- A clean and undefiled religion is one in which our conduct and character are disciplined in accordance with God's Word.
- A believer with God-pleasing "religion" helps others in need and keeps him or herself pure (literally = "clean").
- This is not a definition of religion but a contrast to ritualistic observances that are commonly called "religion." It is easy to look good on the outside. Holiness that comes from the inside comes from transformation, which comes from consistent application of God's Word to our lives.