

PART 3 CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHILD OF GOD

I. A changed life is the result of true faith

Spurious faith

- * Titus 1:16
- * I John 2:3-4
- * Luke 8:4-18 (Matt. 13:23 "good soil produces fruit")
- * Acts 8:5-24

Resisting the Holy Spirit

Acts 7:51
2 Peter 2:18-22

Real faith

- * 2 Corinthians 5:17
- * Ephesians 2:8-10
- * Titus 2:11-15

II. Characteristics of a child of God

Produces fruit - Matthew 7:16-20

- * Attitude fruit Galatians 5:22-23

Fruit is singular so all the characteristics are produced to some degree in all believers lives.

By yielding to the Holy Spirit we can produce "much fruit" John 15:8.

It is possible that *love* is synonymous with *fruit* and that the Holy Spirit produces this fruit (love - *agape*), Romans 5:5, and the rest of the fruit is the practical manifestations of *agape* in our lives.

Joy - the feeling of happiness that comes from a deep-down satisfaction based on spiritual realities. It is not dependent on circumstances. 1 Corinthians 13:6

Peace - the tranquility of mind that comes from spiritual realities. It is also not dependent on circumstances. 1 Corinthians 13:7

Patience - a calm of tolerance & longsuffering in the midst of pain and trials. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Kindness - tender concern for others. 1 Corinthians 13:4

Goodness - moral and spiritual excellence that is active in helping others. 1 Corinthians 13:5

Faithfulness - loyalty and trustworthiness. 1 Corinthians 13:7

Gentleness - best understood as *meekness*. We accept God's working in our lives as good and don't resist or dispute. This includes the idea of gentleness. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Self-control - restraining passions and appetites. 1 Corinthians 13:5

- * Action fruit Philippians 1:11

PART 4 DISCIPLINE OF A BELIEVER

- I. Child of God or child of Satan? I John 3:1-10
- 1) The world does not understand us - vs. 1
 - 2) We purify ourselves - vs. 3
 - 3) We do not commit sin and get away with it - vs. 5-9

Christians can commit sin - 1 John 1:8, 10; 2:1

Commit sin is in the *present tense* and speaks of a linear, ongoing, action. A believer can't *practice* or *habitually* sin.

II. Discipline of a believer

- 1) Conviction of sin - I John 1:9
- 2) Chastisement - Hebrews 12:5-11
- 3) Casket - I John 5:16-17
 - a) Occultic activity - I Samuel 31:3-5; I Chronicles 10:13-14
 - b) Sexual sin - I Corinthians 5:5
 - c) Abuse of the Lord's Table - I Corinthians 11:26-30

Be careful about *judging* another person's circumstances. The same circumstances in a Believer's life can be present because of "the trial of faith", 1 Peter 1:6-7, which is not discipline because of sin.