



*June 12, 2022*

*“The Harvest”*

*Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.*

*News:*

Congratulations Delaney Modderman FHS 22'  
VBS Jun 13-17 – Church Camp Aug 22-24

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

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### **JOHN 4:27-42 ~**

On the surface we may have little in \_\_\_\_\_ with a non-Christian person, but it is a far wider gap than anyone can fathom. Christians are, by definition, \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus and so have nothing even remotely in common with the lifeless corpses walking all around us on this planet.

How did our Master \_\_\_\_\_ to the difference? With “Gentleness” and “Self-Control,” He allowed the Father to \_\_\_\_\_ her through Him.

We must do likewise.

Paul in his Letter to the Galatians contrasts the Christian bearing the Fruit of the Holy Spirit with the anti-Christian cultivating the thorns of self-indulgence. Whereas the list of \_\_\_\_\_ vices is a sampling of corrupt self-indulgent behaviors, the Fruit is just one thing encompassing \_\_\_\_\_ inseparable elements in an all-inclusive whole.

So-called “Vice Lists” occur frequently in the Bible and beyond (Matthew 15:19&20, Romans 1, Revelation 1-3, etc.).

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

Acts 15... Led to a short catechism called the Didache, which in Greek simply means the \_\_\_\_\_. "There are two ways, one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between these two ways. Now this is the way of life: first, "you shall love God, who made you"; second, "your neighbor as yourself."

Then we come to the lengthy \_\_\_\_\_ list.

The most important thing in all the \_\_\_\_\_ lists is that in every case... They are written to Christians, not in order to determine who is unsaved, not in order to \_\_\_\_\_ others within the church, but always, always, always, to demonstrate the things that you personally should \_\_\_\_\_ as a Child of God.

What then is a Christian to \_\_\_\_\_? The Fruit of the Holy Spirit answers that question.

God's "Love" called Agapē.

"Joy" is not what you think it is.

Well, then what is "Peace"?

"Patience" with both God and with myself. When that's real, I can also be patient with others, μακροθυμία (mäk-rö-thü-mē-ä)...

Patience leads us to "Kindness" (I Corinthians 13).

While kindness is a disposition to do good – "Goodness" is doing it.

"Faithfulness" is goodness as a lifestyle.

"Gentleness" means composure.

In Acts chapter 24, the Apostle Paul sums up the entirety of what a Christian child of God is to be with the word ἐγκράτεια (ěn-krä-tā-ä) we translate as "Self-control." Self-control enables us to love God more genuinely with our whole life, and it aids us in \_\_\_\_\_ His love for us, which \_\_\_\_\_ us recognize His love for others (Ephesians 4:1-6).

Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

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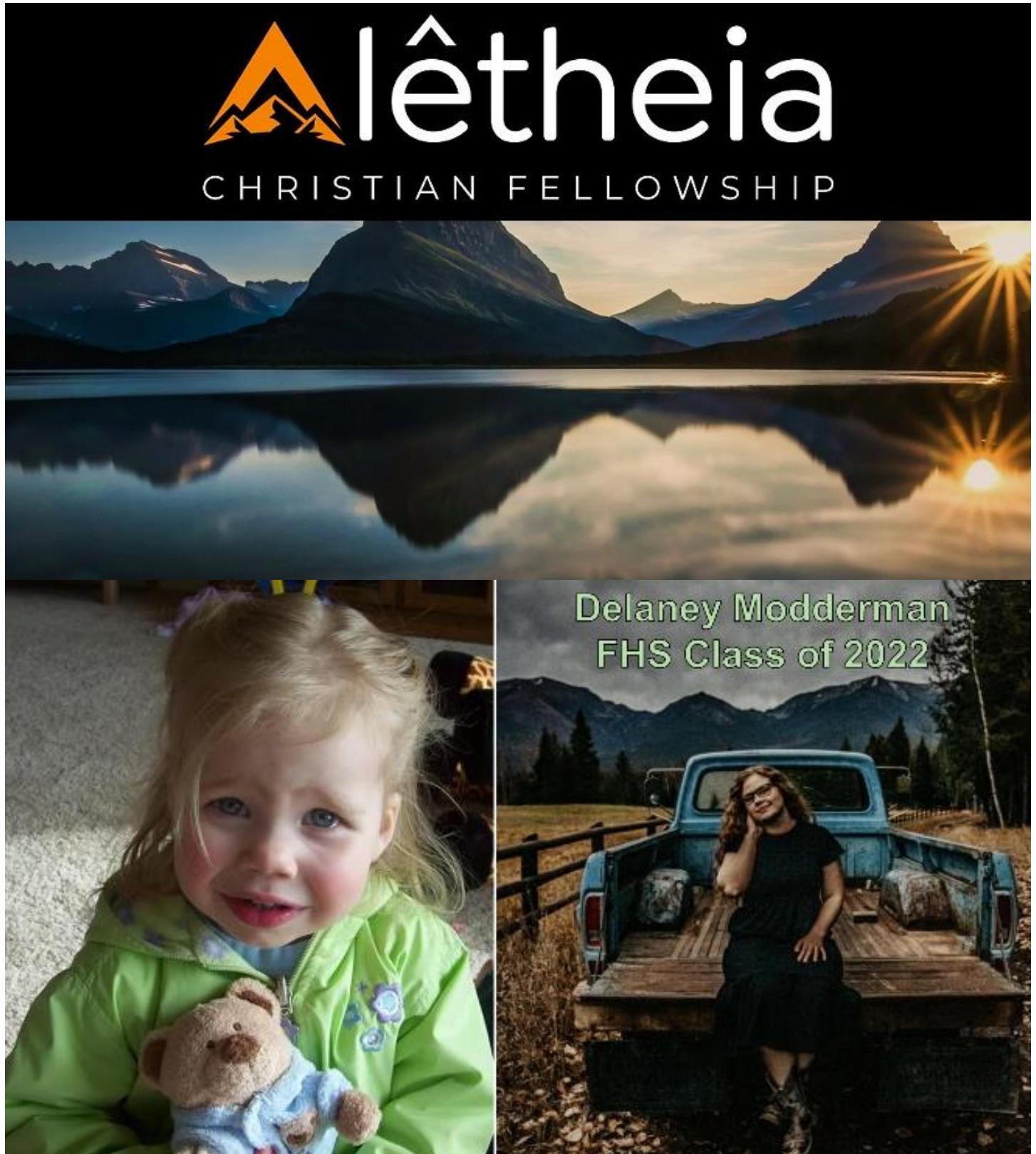
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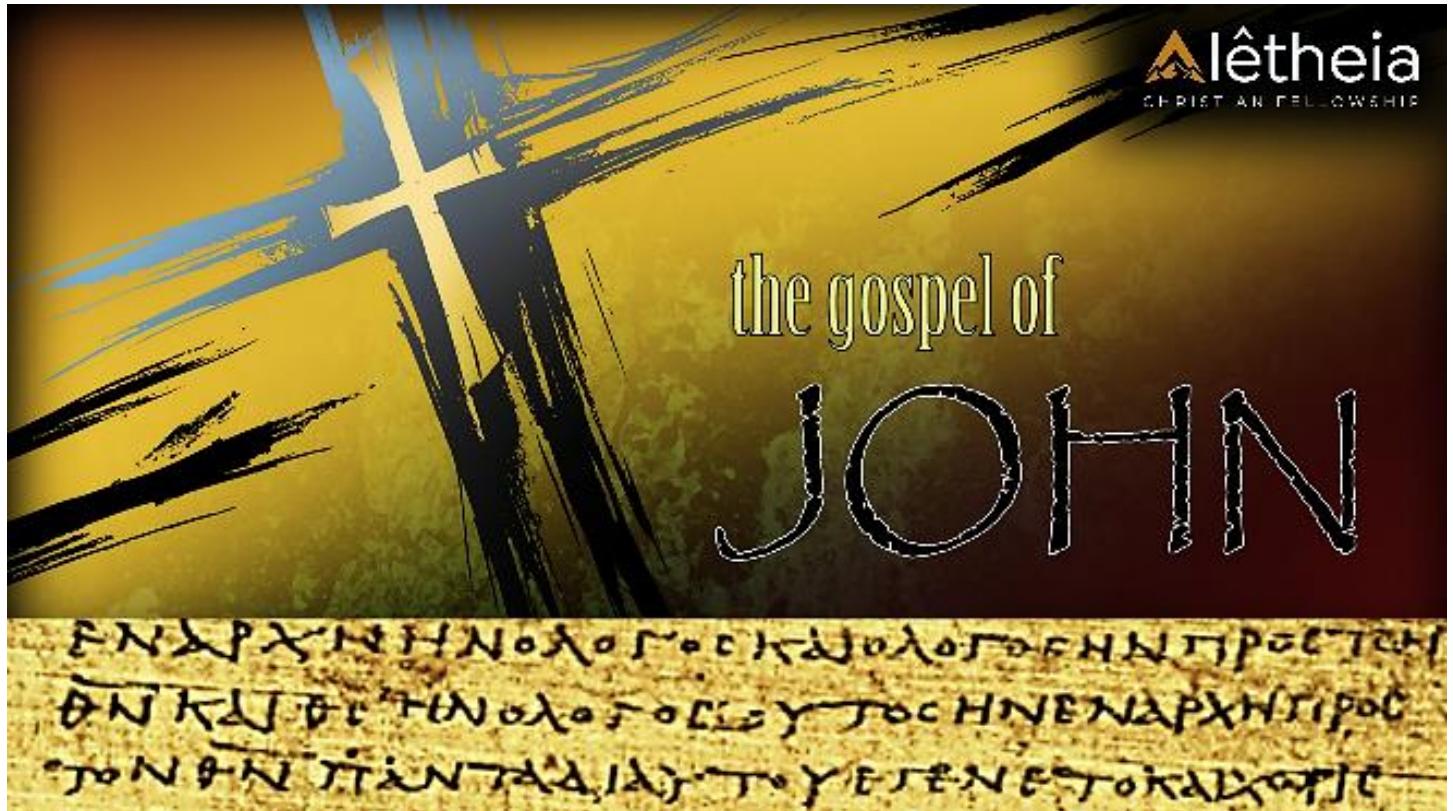


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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Last week was our second week studying the encounter initiated by Jesus with a disgraced Samaritan woman.



We'll pick up the incident in John 4:27-42, but before we do, let me remind you that we're not trying to get through the Gospel... We're trying to take enough time to explore concepts as they arise. If it takes 5 years to complete this study, it will be because we're thoroughly investigating what the Holy Spirit had the Apostle John write.

27At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?" 28So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men, 29"Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" 30They went out of the city,

and were coming to Him. 31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. 35 "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 "Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 "For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor." 39 From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 Many more believed because of His word; 42 and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for

ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.”

Remember, Jesus and the woman appeared to have nothing in common. It was scandalous that they would even be speaking to one another given the setting. It's actually far more scandalous than it seemed. Talk about nothing in common... The Word of God conversing with a human being... That's having nothing in common.

It's the same with us Christians. On the surface we may have little in common with a non-Christian person, but it is a far wider gap than anyone can fathom. Christians are, by definition, followers of Christ, Holy Spirit anointed, “Begotten from above” children of the Heavenly Father. We who are alive in Jesus have nothing even remotely in common with

the lifeless corpses walking all around us on this planet.

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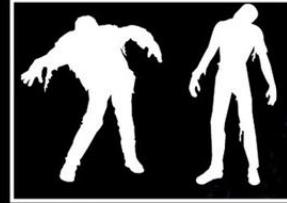
# ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

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Are you prepared?

have you got:

1. Supplies?
2. Adequate weaponry?
3. Fortified shelter?
4. An escape plan?



It is important to remain calm in the event of an outbreak, be alert but not alarmed. Survivors should proceed towards the nearest shelter and wait for emergency service. It is advised to limit contact with the infected doing so will reduce the chance of contamination. Those infected should be quarantined and brought to the attention of the officials in charge so they may receive appropriate treatment.

Ask yourself:

Talk about a future zombie apocalypse – we're in it! Light has nothing to do with dark, Good has nothing to do with evil, Life has nothing to do with death and so Christians have nothing to do with non-Christians.

We are nearly as different from the Lost as Jesus was from the shunned woman at Jacob's Well.

Not really  
a man  
and a  
woman,  
but more  
a Father  
and a  
baby girl.



How did our Master react to the difference? He initiated contact with her while fully recognizing the disparity in His position to hers... Not physically, but spiritually, and He acted towards her with “Gentleness” and “Self-Control.” He allowed the Father to love her through Him.

We must do likewise. When we encounter unsaved people, we must forget about the physical differences and the ethical differences and the political differences and the whatever other obvious differences exist between us, and realize they are nothing compared to the far greater spiritual difference separating us...

We're alive and they're dead! A little respect for the dead is in order! a little gentleness and self-control is reasonable.

Therefore, the interaction isn't between us and them at all, but rather between them and God. We are merely conduits through whom the Father loves, through whom Jesus saves, through whom the Holy Spirit ministers. They are mere infants to God and spiritually to us. Our role as God's emissaries puts us in a position of great strength and incredible authority in comparison. We must recognize that power-difference and reach out with "Gentleness" and "Self-Control." It's the reason an officer cannot fraternize with an enlisted person, the reason a CEO cannot flirt with a secretary, the reason the President cannot dally with an intern – there's a power differential.



That's how we end the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. We've looked at the Fruit many times before. It's been a while, so I thought a quick review might be in order. The Apostle Paul in his Letter to the Galatians contrasts the Christian bearing the Fruit of the Holy Spirit with the anti-Christian cultivating the thorns of self-indulgence. The latter is fleshly pursuits such as immorality, idolatry, strife, jealousy, disputes, factions, and drunkenness. There are actually 15 works of dissipation listed that encompass the whole of human fear-driven, self-serving, God-diminishing, sin, in general, not in detail.



## *The Flesh Versus the Spirit*

*- Galatians 5:16-18 -*

What I mean is that the 15 fleshly indulgences listed, when taken very broadly, paint a picture of opposition to God and so describe an actively anti-Christian person, but when viewed narrowly, the 15 do not cover every conceivable sinful attitude or behavior. As an example, lying is not on the list, even though we know that it is a ticket to “The lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” according to Revelation 21:8 and other Scripture.

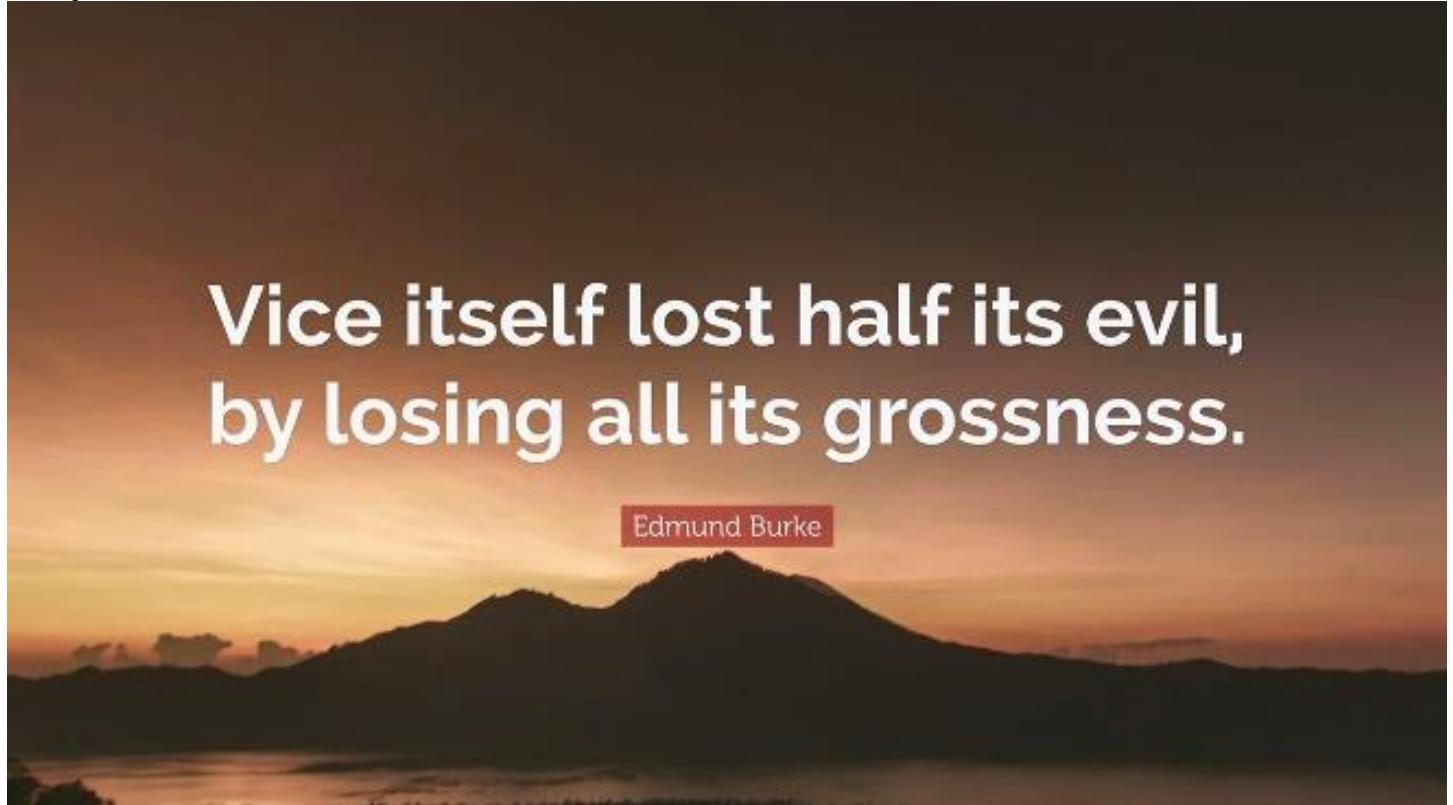
Paul specifically states that the list of 15 is partial closing it with “And things like these.” In contrast. the 9 elements making up the Fruit of the Holy Spirit that

come next are quite different. Even though it's a much shorter list, it actually does describe a Spirit-led Christian in full. Whereas the list of vices is a sampling of corrupt self-indulgent behaviors, the Fruit is just one thing encompassing 9 inseparable elements in an all-inclusive whole.



The Fruit elements are incredibly well thought out and ordered. Rather than types of conduct as the previous list, these elements all flow from one to the next building upon each other and developing the character that can be called Christ-like.

As such, it is impossible to be Christ-like if you are missing even a single element. It is the Fruit singular, not plural. It's an all or nothing proposition, but one in which each Christian is to continually grow and improve.



And Edmund Burke wrote that 250 years ago... When vice becomes common, it becomes acceptable and then it becomes normal. Then Christians engage in it and say God approves. So-called "Vice Lists," of fleshly, sinful, anti-God, behaviors occur frequently in the Bible and beyond. Jesus gave us one in Matthew 15:19&20, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness,

slanders. 20“These are the things which defile the man”.

The Apostle Paul has several lists. At the end of Romans chapter 1, he adds a lengthy section on homosexuality being an “Abandonment of the natural function” created by God then adds, 29being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful”. That’s a list of vices for example.

The Apostle John in relaying the words of Jesus in the first few chapters of The Book of Revelation gives us several lists.

# Council of Jerusalem

- 49 AD
- Jewish laws do not apply to Gentile Christians
- Gentiles are called by Holy Spirit

The 15th chapter of the Book of Acts tells us about the very first Christian Council. It was called to settle issues about the spread of Christianity outside of Jewish circles. The primary purpose was to establish the requirements for Gentiles to be accepted into the Body of Christ. Essentially, “Did a Gentile need to become Jewish to some degree, or at least observe Judaic Law to some level, in order to be a Christian?” The Council was presided over by James the brother of Jesus and author of the Bible Book. It was attended by the Apostles, including Paul and Barnabas, as well as the Elders, Deacons and others who personally knew Jesus. They sent a letter to the Gentile churches with

some selected representatives to go with Paul and Barnabas. A summary of their letter is found in verses 23-29. According to church tradition, either at that time or shortly afterward, a short catechism was published to set down basic guidelines for the church. It was called the Didache, which in Greek simply means the “Teaching.”

All scholars today recognize it as a first century guide that was widely used in the early church. It is the oldest Christian writing in existence, outside of the Bible itself and was one of the few documents seriously considered for acceptance into the Bible, that didn’t make it in the end. The reason? It is clearly a derivative document, rather than anything original. In other words, it sets out standards by quoting and applying other Scriptures instead of being something new itself.



## *The Didache of the Apostles*

I'll read a bit of what our Christian forebears 2,000 years ago set down as doctrine. The Didache starts off, "There are two ways, one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between these two ways. Now this is the way of life: first, "you shall love God, who made you"; second, "your neighbor as yourself." It goes on to talk about the "Golden Rule" and turning the other cheek and being generous as well as other positive Christian behaviors. Then we come to the vice list. "You shall not murder; you shall not commit adultery"; you shall not corrupt boys; you shall not be sexually promiscuous; "you shall not steal"; you shall not practice magic; you shall not engage in sorcery;

you shall not abort a child or commit infanticide. “You shall not covet your neighbor’s possessions; you shall not commit perjury; you shall not give false testimony”; you shall not speak evil; you shall not hold a grudge. You shall not be double-minded, or double-tongued.” It goes on like that for 3 or 4 times longer than what I read. Things like, “You shall not be greedy or materialistic, or a hypocrite or malicious or arrogant. You shall not hatch evil plots against your neighbor. You shall not hate anyone.” Later, “Do not become angry, for anger leads to murder. Do not be jealous or quarrelsome or hot-tempered, for all these things breed murders.” Further in, “Do not be a liar, since lying leads to theft. Do not be covetous or self-centered, for all these things breed thefts. My child, do not be a grumbler, since it leads to blasphemy.” The list continues and closes with this... “Accept as good the things that happen to you, knowing that nothing transpires apart from God.”

Like all lists, and all catechisms, and all creeds, and all laws, for that matter, vice list gets longer and longer over time as people invent new ways to rebel against God. Today we would need to add several more paragraphs to the already long list. The most important

thing that I want to say about all the vice lists is that in every case... Please get this. In all cases they are written to Christians, not in order to determine who is unsaved, not in order to judge others within the church, but always, always, always, to demonstrate the things that you personally should avoid as a Child of God.



In every case the lists set out attitudes and behaviors that are in opposition to the Holy Spirit within you and therefore must be warred against by you, in you. Once you are able to completely avoid all such things, then you may begin judging others.

That's not to say that you cannot judge actions – we know what actions are evil – we have lists! What it is to say is while you can judge actions, you cannot judge actors. Not even Johnny Depp. People – do not judge people.

We are to avoid vices, but if that's what we are to avoid, what are we to do? Well, technically what we do is believe. That's honestly all that we do, but by believing, we are endowed with the power to be.



What then is a Christian to be? The Fruit of the Holy Spirit answers that question.

Unlike any vice list, each Fruit element builds upon the previous element all the way to the conclusion and then that final element connects right back to the beginning element bringing us full circle. It is not a linear progression, but a circle. Each time around the racetrack we, in a sense, move up to a higher ring. So then, instead of a circle, it is really an upward spiral corkscrewing all the way to Heaven. Set your feet on the upward path. We grow as we incorporate each element in turn traveling around and around. It always starts and ends with God's "Love" called Agapê.



We talk about it so often I won't belabor it here, but it is a genuinely selfless and self-sacrificing love that can

only come from God. The concept that it is given unconditionally is a very difficult concept for most people to grasp and even harder for them to accept.

It's not about you. It's not about you when God loves you and it's not about you when you allow Him to love other people through you. It's a choice. God chooses to love you. Period. God chooses to love you based upon His character, not on your performance – not on your lovability. Similarly, we Christians choose to allow Him to pour His love through us... Or we don't.

When we do, we find that we love in the same way. From this perspective, you love a person for who they are, or you don't love them at all. What? You might say. If I think that I partially love a person and the thing that would allow me to love them more is that they would better fit my idea of who they should be, then what I actually love is my idealized fantasy, not the person in question.

God is not like that. God loves because He chooses to love, and nothing can ever change that. Because He loves, He wants what's best for us, which certainly does include change, but the change for the better

does not make God love us more. I hope you can see the distinction. It is okay to want people to change for the better, but you cannot love them less if they don't and you cannot love them more if they do, or it is really you that you love.



“Joy” is not what you think it is. We equate joy with happiness. The closest easy concept we have for joy is peace, but that’s the next element in English. Joy is knowing to the core of your being that it’s going to be, not just okay, but perfect. Joy is standing before Jesus with a clear conscience. Joy is knowing that even when you fail, God has you.

Joy is utterly impossible without accepting the Agapê of God. It is God's unconditional love for you that gives you joy in all circumstances. I'm His child, He's for me, not against me and my acceptance is assured because it is based upon His love, not my performance, and so I am free to experience joy, contentment, even happiness knowing all is well with my soul – all is Good forevermore.



Well, then what is “Peace”? By accepting God’s unconditional love and then resting in it to the point of knowing that all is as it should be, I can stop fighting with God, stop fighting with others, and stop fighting with myself.

Peace is literally the opposite of conflict. The Spirit-led person no longer needs to struggle to measure up, no longer needs to measure themselves against others, no longer needs to resent God for an impossibly high bar. Joy means that I know that I am accepted, peace is living like I know that.



At peace, I can now be patient. I can be patient with God's work in my own life, with my growth as a Christian because I'm at peace with where God has me – I want to be better, but I can be patient. That's "Patience" with both God and with myself. When that's real, I can also be patient with others, understanding

that we are all works in progress, and that it is God Who progresses us at His pace.

This then becomes the first step in demonstrably loving others. Few things are less loving than impatience, few things are more loving than patience. Patience is concrete love – proof of real love. When you're hiking to a great fishing spot and your partner isn't keeping up and continues to lag behind, love for them is to adopt their pace without anyone even realizing that you've intentionally slowed down to accommodate them, even though that means that you'll miss the best time to fish.

Anyone can leave their friend in the dust. Anyone can make a big deal out of how patient they're being. Love is when no one knows that you are accommodating someone else and it's okay. A new mom waiting for her toddler to put on his own shoes for the first time doesn't brag about how patient she was – what does she brag about?

One of my favorite ways to explain patience is by looking at the original word used. It is μακροθυμία (mäk-řō-thü-mē-ä), a compound word with the first bit meaning long and the second meaning anger or wrath.

It is quite literally to hold one's anger for a long time and is therefore often translated as "Longsuffering." Well, my friends, "In order to be long-suffering; one first has to be long bothered." There is no patience if there isn't something to be patient about. Instead of being irritated by a peer that is holding you back you can say, wow, my brother or sister is struggling with this thing. Well, thank God, that thing is easy for me... God must have made it easy for me because He wants me to help them. And next time, when I am struggling with something, perhaps that will be the very thing that is so easy for them that they can help me.



Patience leads us to “Kindness.” In the so-called “Love Chapter,” I Corinthians 13, “Love is patient, love is kind.” Patience produces, and is therefore the prerequisite, of true kindness because kindness is an attitude that chooses to elevate others. “If patience is selfless waiting, kindness is selfless forgiveness, mercy, and grace.” Anyone can be kind to those who deserve it; this is undeserved, or unmerited kindness, otherwise known as grace. Remember the little example of someone looking past a neighbor’s broken-down garden gate to compliment them on the beautiful flowers growing beyond... That’s the quality of kindness. Any moron can point out the painfully obvious gate. The ultimate example is the willingness of the Father to hand over His Perfect Word, to benefit imperfect man.



“Goodness” is the Father actually handing over the Word. While kindness is an attitude and a disposition to do good – to put others first, goodness is doing it in actual fact. In this sense it is the goodness of God, not a human goodness. This isn’t doing something for someone else to make yourself feel better, or reap some kind of accolade, or have the person owe you. This is directed at the betterment of the other at your personal expense without benefit to you. Self-sacrifice is involved. This is putting down the remote, getting up off the couch, brushing the popcorn debris from your lap, and properly disciplining your kids, instead of

angrily yelling another barrage of ineffectual threats at them.



“Faithfulness” is goodness as a lifestyle – it’s goodness as a habitual continuous practice. Goodness that can be counted on, relied upon, depended on, regardless of the cost. Marines are “Always Faithful.” Call the Marines and they will answer. A very common Marine tattoo is “Death before dishonor,” Dishonor is a failure to be faithful. A faithful person can be trusted. The picture I have is redundant. You don’t need to add “In every circumstance,” because that’s implied in the word faithfulness – of course in every circumstance.

Christ is, as God is, perfectly faithful, and He is our example.

Now, that we can be counted on to act like Christians regardless of the situation, we have no need to control the situation. We lose the perceived need to manipulatively orchestrate events and coercively bend people to our will. We don't need to take charge because we know God is already in charge even when it seems like He's not. That's moving beyond the fear of the unknown and relaxing because you now know it's not unknown at all... To the Lord. We are free to be gentle to people – even evil people.

*Nothing is as strong as gentleness,*



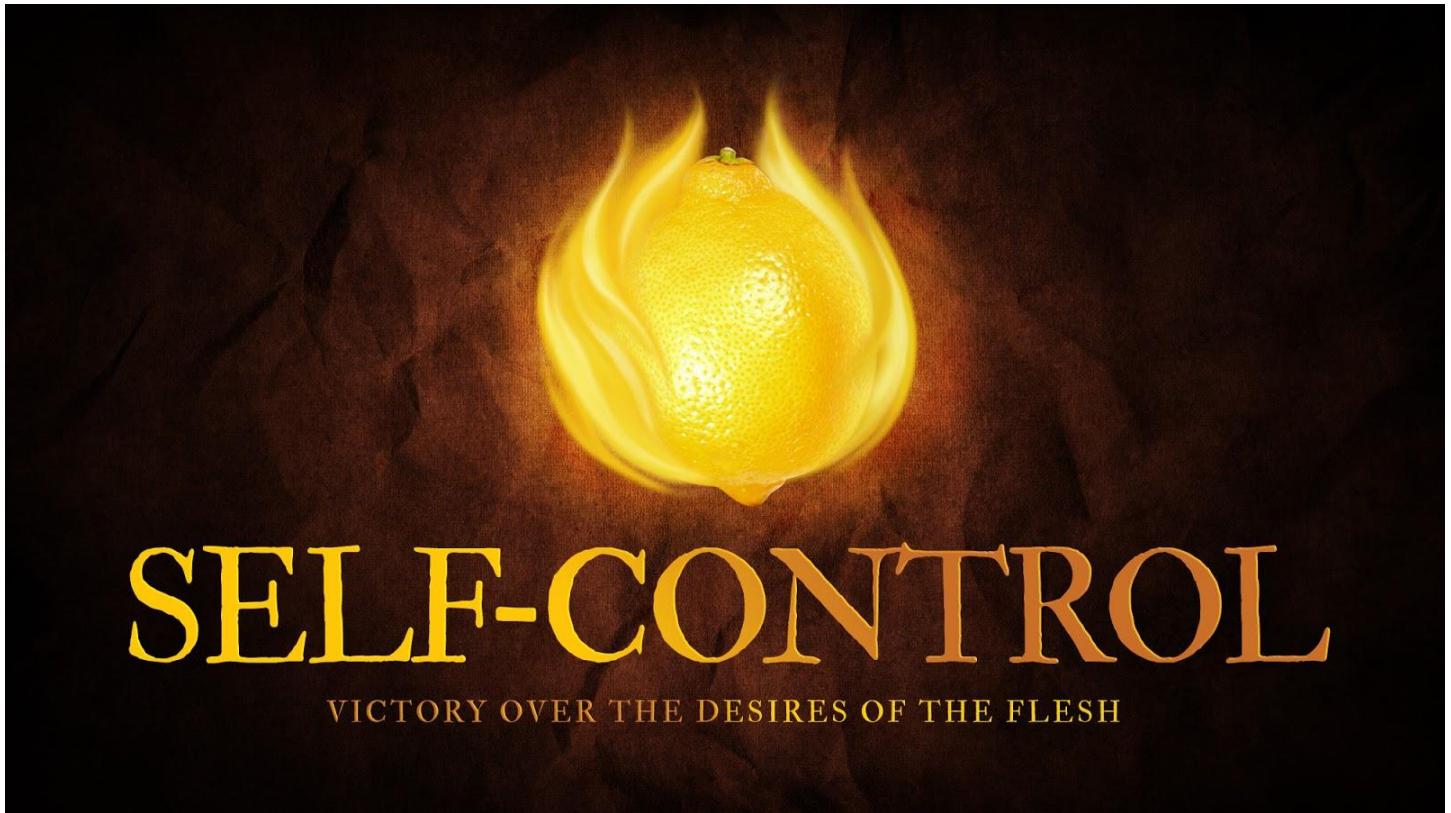
*nothing as gentle as real strength.*

“Gentleness” means composure. It is controlled power. “It is the quality of strength that accommodates another person’s weakness.” A small child brings me a finger painting of the church, do I say, “The color is wrong, the building is crooked, and the scale is all off.” No, I look for what is good and compliment them while gently encouraging them to continue to work to improve. From the Cross Jesus said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). As with patience, we only need to comport ourselves with gentleness when there is a natural tendency to do otherwise. The temptation to be aggressive means that you feel the situation getting out of your control. Being gentle instead shows that you know God is still in control.

Of course, the example is God. He has all the power – literally, and yes, I used the word correctly. He has all the power and yet He brings Himself down to us and makes Himself approachable. We constantly fail and He is constantly gentle. Even in His discipline of us He is gentle towards us, believe it or not. We, therefore, must be gentle, as Jesus was gentle to this Samaritan woman, treating her with a dignity and respect that was

far beyond what most people then would have assumed that she deserved.

Treating even your fiercest enemy that way... That's real power. "Real power does not rest with those able to control others, it rests with those able to control themselves." In Acts chapter 24, the Apostle Paul sums up the entirety of what a Christian child of God is to be with the word ἐγκράτεια (ěn-krä-tā-ä) we translate as "Self-control."



It is once again, two Greek words jammed together, the first is the preposition "In," and the second is the noun meaning "Strength," "Might, or "Dominion." Truly, it is to

seize by force and then hold through strength. Together the words mean “in control.” To be in complete control of your own power, and so, to be in complete control of your own person. It is to have complete mastery over yourself. Such a person is a mature Christian operating in full concert with the Holy Spirit and therefore exhibiting or bearing the entire Fruit of that same Holy Spirit.

It is discipline. Without discipline you are not a mature Christian. Truth is nothing without love, that's a fact; but love is nothing, in the long term, without the discipline of Truth. The key to self-control is comprehending Truth in Love. I'll let you work through that one. There's a saying by James Allen, “Self-control is strength. Right thought is mastery. Calmness is power”



Self-control enables us to love God more genuinely with our whole life, but even more importantly it aids us in accepting His love for us and in recognizing His love for others. It is that part that allows us to further mature. Around we go again. To sum up the fruit we look at Ephesians 4:1-6, "Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith,

one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”



Well, that brings us back to Jesus and His treatment of the Samaritan Woman at Jacob's Well. The result was people who seemed very different on the surface, who were actually far more different than imaginable, were saved. Former enemies now brothers and sisters because Jesus cared far more about the Father's Harvest than He did about Himself.

What do you think about?