

# FRUIT of the *Spirit*

Sunday, October 11, 2020 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

## PART 9 | **SELF-CONTROL**

Multiple Scriptures

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

**– Galatians 5:22-23**

**Self-control is not self-MANAGEMENT,**

**self-control** = *en kratos* —> “in” + “strength, power, might, dominion”

2 Timothy 1:7; James 3:8ff; Proverbs 25:28; Romans 7:15-20

**put sin to death** Ephesians 4:30; Romans 8:12-13

it is denying power to the **OLD SELF**

**off with the old** Ephesians 4:22

**denying "self"** Matthew 16:24

and yielding control to the **NEW SELF.**

**put on Christ** Romans 13:14; 2 Timothy 1:7; Proverbs 16:32; Matthews 6:33

***Which "self" will have control this week?*** Galatians 5:16



**What is this?** – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups. The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a parallel passage of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

**Welcome to Life Groups!** We're studying the fruit that the Holy Spirit grows in our lives as we stay close to Jesus.

## Getting Started

**Getting to Know You:** Part of our goal together is getting to know one another. *Did you have a stuffed animal as a child? What was its name? And, more importantly, do you still have it?*

Review your message notes and this week's Scripture. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

*\* This week's questions are adapted from:*

*Phyllis J. LePeau et al., Fruit of the Spirit: 48 Bible Studies for Individuals or Groups (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013).*

## Clothing Ourselves with Christ

Self-control is not self-management, but yielding the self to the Holy Spirit, putting off the old self and putting on the new self (Ephesians 4:22-24), which is putting on Christ (Romans 13:14).

1. How accurate is the saying "Clothes make the man"?
2. **Read Romans 13:11–14.** What do night and day, darkness and light stand for in this passage?
3. What words does Paul use to emphasize the nearness of Christ's return?

[This text does] not mean that the early Christians believed that Jesus would return within a few years (and thus were mistaken). Rather, they regarded the death and resurrection of Christ as the crucial events of history that began the last days. Since the next great event in God's redemptive plan is the second coming of Jesus Christ, "the night," no matter how long chronologically it may last, is "nearly over." – *The NIV Study Bible, note on Romans 13:12*

4. What do the "deeds of darkness" (**v. 12–13**) have in common?
5. If Paul were writing today, do you think his list of deeds in **verse 13** would be the same or different? Explain.
6. Why do you think people are more inclined to do such deeds in the darkness rather than in the light?
7. What does it mean to "clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ" (**v. 14**)?
8. Paul also speaks of our putting on "the armor of light" (**v. 12**). What does that idea add to the image of clothing? (See also **Ephesians 6:10-18** and **1Thessalonians 5:1-11**)
9. If Paul had made a list of Christlike clothes to put on, what might that list have included (see, for example, **v. 8–10**)?
10. Which items in that list are most absent from your wardrobe?
11. What is one practical way you might clothe yourself with those qualities?

*Continued on next page...*

Continued from Life Groups Homework on previous page...

- 12. If we clothe ourselves with Jesus Christ, why is it wrong even to think about gratifying our sinful desires (v. 14)?
- 13. How does the dawning of Christ's return motivate you to "dress" differently than you might otherwise?

## Pray

Thank God for the passing of night and the nearness of day. Ask him to help you dress in clothes fit for the occasion.

### Try it This Week:

You may love to shop for clothes — or you may hate to. Yet clearly the Lord wants you to invest in a new moral wardrobe. Spend time in prayer, Bible study, and reflection, asking him to show you what new spiritual clothes you should acquire and put on.

## Word Find for Romans 13:10-14 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

<sup>10</sup> **Love** does no wrong to a **neighbor**; **therefore love** is the **fulfilling** of the law.

<sup>11</sup> **Besides** this you **know** the **time**, that the **hour** has **come** for you to **wake** from **sleep**. For **salvation** is **nearer** to us now than **when** we **first believed**. <sup>12</sup>The **night** is far **gone**; the day is at **hand**. So **then** let us **cast** off the **works** of **darkness** and put on the **armor** of **light**. <sup>13</sup>Let us **walk properly** as in the **daytime**, not in orgies and **drunkenness**, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

<sup>14</sup>But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make **no** provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

W A L K W B D B D W O B C  
 R A K T H E R E F O R E K  
 K N O W E D U L I R G S D  
 L O V E N E N I R K I I P  
 A U F D W A K E S S E D R  
 R D U A S T E V T N S E O  
 M K L R C H N E L I I S P  
 O C F K O E N D I G W H E  
 R A I N M N E I G H B O R  
 B S L E E P S W H T V H L  
 U T L S C Y S I T T H A Y  
 N Y I S A L V A T I O N S  
 G O N E A R E R N M U D F  
 H D G D A Y T I M E R A I