



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 27 July 2, 2024

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin

## MINISTER

Steven Ford

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

## WEB PAGE

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

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## Missionary - Huron, SD

Casey & Emily Paulin

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Graham McDonald ..... Scotland  
J. Paguaga ..... Honduras  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

# Do You Follow The Spirit?

Brian R. Kenyon

Freedom in Christ does not mean anything goes! The New Testament places unmistakable restrictions on Christian freedom, especially what Paul wrote in Galatians 5. Within that context, he showed the Spirit and the flesh being in constant warfare with one another (Galatians 5:15-18). He also showed how people can know which of the two have sway over their lives. If people are led by the flesh, they will show “evident” characteristics. Paul listed seventeen (KJV) “lusts of the flesh” (Galatians 5:19-21). However, the evidence of being led by the Holy Spirit is also evident; namely, when we produce the “fruit of the Spirit.” Paul identified this fruit, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23a).

The word translated “fruit” (*karpos*, καρπός) refers to fruit, grain; harvest (Matthew 3:8, 10; Luke 12:17; John 12:24; 15:16); result, outcome; deed, action (Matthew 7:16-20). Note the singular “fruit” as opposed to the plural “works” (of the flesh). The singular emphasizes unity. All these qualities are part of the same package, comparable to the beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10) and the Christian graces (2 Pet. 1:5-11). “Fruit” indicates naturally occurring growth (cf. Matthew 7:17-18), whereas “works” are humanly produced, which in Galatians (2:16; 3:2, 5, 10; et al.) “have been shown to be inadequate” (Boice, 498). Unlike works, “fruit” cannot be faked! Let us examine each of these so that we can better obtain and cultivate each one in our lives.

## Fruit of Attitude

**Love** (from *agape*, ἀγάπη) refers to love (primarily of Christian love); concern, interest. It is common in the New Testament (Galatians 5:6, 13; Romans 5:5, 8; 8:35, 39; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Ephesians 2:4; 1 Peter 4:8; 2 Peter 1:7; 1 John 4:8). In some contexts, it can even refer to a sacred, fellowship-type meal of the church (Jude 12). This *agape* love “holds its object in high esteem and admiration,” and is expressed by action, always seeking the best for its object (Rogers and Rogers, 431). By this love, others will know who belong to Christ (John 13:35). **Joy** (from *chara*, χαρά) refers to gladness, happiness; object of joy (John 15:11; 16:24; Romans 14:17; 2 Corinthians 7:4, 13; Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20). Joy is elsewhere associated with the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:6). Joy in the New Testament “most frequently has a religious meaning suggesting spiritual gladness or delight because of one’s relationship to God” (Johnson). **Peace** (from *eirene*, εἰρήνη) is defined as peace, harmony; often used in invocations and greetings (Galatians 1:3; 6:16; Ephesians 2:14-15, 17; 4:3; 6:15, 23; Philippians 4:9; Colossians 3:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:23;

2 Timothy 2:22; Hebrews 7:2; 12:14; James 3:18). Peace refers to the “wholeness of soul which issues in a tranquil disposition regardless of outward circumstances” (Rogers and Rogers, 431). It is “the peace ... which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7). This is more than the absence of conflict, but refers to a calmness of soul based on a right relationship with God (John 16:33).

## Fruit of Relationship

**Longsuffering** (patience, NAS; from *makrothumia*, μακροθυμία) refers to forbearance, patience (Romans 2:4; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:12; 1 Timothy 1:16; 2 Peter 3:15). Literally, the word combines the word “long” (*makro-*) with “angered,” or “tempered” (*-thumia*), to mean the opposite of “short tempered.” This is “not just a shallow good nature but ... makes for love and peace and enables one to bear injury without taking vengeance” (2 Timothy 3:10-12) (Johnson). **Kindness** (gentleness, KJV) is from a word (*chrestotes*, χρηστότης) that means kindness, goodness, mercy; what is right (Romans 2:4; 3:12; 11:22; 2 Corinthians 6:6; Ephesians 2:7; Colossians 3:12; Titus 3:4). It is a “kindly disposition toward one’s neighbors, showing goodness and concern towards others, sympathetic kindness” (Rogers and Rogers, 431). A common slave name of the first century was “Chrestos,” from the same root word, indicating this quality to be an ideal “slave virtue” (cf. Christians, Romans 6:16-18; 1 Corinthians 7:22) (Cole, 220). **Goodness** (from *agathosune*, ἀγαθωσύνη) is general goodness (compared to kindness, which is specific acts of goodness); perhaps generosity (Romans 15:14; Ephesians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:11). This would be generosity that springs from kindness. It carries with it action that is “often directed toward that which does not merit the action” (Boice, 499).

## Fruit of Inner Discipline

**Faithfulness** (faith, KJV; from *pistis*, πίστις) has a wide range of meaning. Depending on the context, it can mean trust, belief; the Christian faith; conviction, good conscience (Romans 14:22-23); the body of faith, doctrine (Jude 3, 20); assurance, proof (Acts 17:31); promise (1 Timothy 5:12). The Greek word occurs 244 times in the New Testament. In Galatians 5:22, the word emphasize the idea of “faithfulness,” that which makes a person reliable and trustworthy (cf. Luke 16:10-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; 1 Timothy 1:12; 2 Timothy 2:2; Revelation 1:5; 2:10; 3:14). This reliability must be directed toward God and neighbor (cf. Matthew 22:37-40)! **Gentleness** (meekness, KJV; from *prautes*, πραΰτης) refers to gentle humility (Galatians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 4:21; 2 Corinthians 10:1; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:12; 2 Timothy 2:25; Titus 3:2; James 1:21; 3:13; 1 Peter 3:16). It is used for a “gentle submission, controlled strength, the ability to bear reproaches and slights without bitterness and resentment; the ability to provide a soothing influence on someone who is in a state of anger, bitterness and resentment against life” (Rogers and Rogers, 431-432). Moses is a great example of this (Numbers 12:1-3). This is to be the attitude with which we are to receive God’s word (James 1:21), to restore the erring (Galatians 6:1), to meet opposition (2 Timothy 2:25), and to answer those who ask (1 Peter 3:15-16). **Self-control** (temperance, KJV; from *egkrateia*, ἐγκράτεια) refers to the ability to control oneself, especially in contrast to the lusts of the flesh (Acts 24:25; 2 Peter 1:6). It is used outside the Bible often in connection with sexual self-control (Cole, 221). It is the “holding in of passions and appetites, self-restraint” (Rogers and Rogers, 432). The need for this quality is obvious when it comes to overcoming the works of the flesh!

## Conclusion

The fruit of the Spirit thus contrasts with the lusts of the flesh. The “acts of hatred” are contrasted with “love;” the “discord” is contrasted with “peace;” the “quick temper” is contrasted with “patience;” the “fits of rage” are contrasted with “acts of kindness;” the “acts of selfish ambition” are contrasted with “generosity;” the “dissensions leading to factions” are contrasted with “faithfulness to others;” and the “acts of envy” are contrasted with “considerateness” (Witherington, 402). Paul concluded this section by stating, “Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23b). Since the “fruit of the Spirit” never needs to be restrained, there is no law against it (cf. 1 Timothy 1:8-9a). As the lusts of the flesh are inherently evil, the fruit of the Spirit is inherently good! May each of us be led by the Holy Spirit and cultivate these characteristics!

**Works Cited** (are on the next page)

**PRAYER LIST**

**Current:** Fran Gabaldon's surgery has been rescheduled for July 10. Jason Hendrix has pneumonia, Hannah Hendrix has a virus, Richard Meadows from the N. Lkld church of Christ has been diagnosed with cancer. Gail Churikian (Steven Ford's mother) is not doing well.

**Continual:** Jim Turner (his cancer has returned and is now in his lymph nodes) Sharon Mathis Washington (Health & family); Stacey Wilson (health); Debbie Bush (struggles); Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health);

**Shut-ins:** Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, bettye bolding, Sharon Roy, Nellie Anderson

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!

**Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes**

Time to sign up if you want to participate in this great program this year! We also need adults to sign up to mentor and help in various areas! We can't do this without your support! Sign up in the notebook by the doorway into the auditorium.

**See Becky Sheumaker with any questions!**



There will be an important Bible class teachers meeting on Sunday, July 28, at 5:00 pm. All teachers for the fall quarter are requested to be there. We would benefit greatly from your input.

**Fellowship Meal to Welcome The Ford Family**

Sunday, July 28 following the morning service  
Bring food for your family and to share with visitors!



**Works Cited** (from the article on pages 1-2)

Boice, James Montgomery. "Galatians." *The Expositor's Bible Commentary—Vol. 10: Romans, First and Second Corinthians, Galatians*. Ed. Frank E. Gaebelin. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1976.

Cole, R. Alan. *The Letter of Paul to the Galatians: An Introduction and Commentary*. Rev. ed. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Vol. 9. Ed. Leon Morris. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Johnson, Robert Lee. *The Letter of Paul to the Galatians*. The Living Word Commentary. Ed. Everett Ferguson. CD-ROM Version. Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 1999.

Rogers, Cleon L., Jr. and Cleon L. Rogers, III. *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.

Witherington, Ben, III. *Grace in Galatia: A Commentary on St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

Scheduled to Serve in July	
Designated Elder	David Anderson
<b>Wednesday, July 3, 2024</b>	
Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader / Prayer	David Williams
Devotional / Invitation	Andre Medley
Closing Prayer	Allen Grimes
<b>Sunday, July 7, 2024</b>	
10:30 am Sermon	Kurtis Leaks
United in Love: Marriage, Jesus, & the Church (Eph.)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Brian Kenyon
Keep It Going (2 Tim. 2:1-6)	
<b>Those to Serve 10:30 am</b>	
Greeters	Brunson's
Song/Pray before class	Stacey Paulin
Announcements (both)	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader (both)	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Potvin
Lord's Table (both)	Jeff Stewart
Closing Prayer	Lou Van Allen
Open/Close Building	David Deal
Attendance Cards	Sawyer Anderson
Sound Booth (both)	Jason Hendrix
<b>Those to Serve 6:00 pm</b>	
Greeters	Fife's
Announcements	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Terrance Dindy
Closing Prayer	Frank Hamby
<b>Wednesday, July 10, 2024</b>	
Announcements	Brian Kenyon
Song Leader / Prayer	Landon Willcut
Devotional / Invitation	
Closing Prayer	Tim Croson
<b>How We Are Giving</b>	
June 16	\$4,655.00
June 23	\$5,170.00
June 30	\$7,510.00
Contribution Average	\$6,823.39
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$7,410.00</b>
<b>If you cannot serve as scheduled, please notify Stacey or the office. Even if you arrange your replacement, please notify Stacey or the office. Thanks!</b>	



**Do We Care?**

So fragile is life  
 Do we care?  
 We see someone hurting.  
 Do we care?  
 Someone is in need  
 Do we care?  
 A life or heart is broken  
 Do we care?  
 Someone is lonely  
 Do we care?  
 Souls are lost  
 Do we care?

*Read Luke 10:25-37 (Instead of seeing things as inconvenient or bothersome, lets have a heart like the Samaritan who saw a need and responded by doing what was right!)*

*Some ways to show you care: Pray for others, share the gospel with a friend or family member, encourage wayward members, send a card just because, visit the sick or shut-in, call someone to say hello, read a scripture or sing a hymn for someone in the hospital or nursing home, cook a meal and share it with someone, send a text, send an email, give someone a ride to an appointment or the grocery store, take someone to the park, ask someone how their day is going, hug someone, play with a baby, ask a kid what makes them happy, give away clothes you love but don't need, forgive someone who has done you wrong, love people with your whole heart!  
 The list is endless!!*



**WWCC K-5 CAMP**

Entering Kindergarten- Finishing 5th Grade

**July 25 - 27th, 2024**

\*Register by July 11th to be guaranteed a T-Shirt \*

Register @ <https://forms.gle/SH3jF6HvfdszQzqH8> or scan QR code



If you have any questions please contact  
 Chad (863.412.0022) or Sabrina Tagtow (863.268.5811)

**Join Us for Bible Classes!**

**Cradle Roll (behind tech booth)**

Sundays: Nikki (Bible basics)  
 Wednesdays: Rene B (Bible basics)

**Upper Elementary**

Sundays: Marion (EHT)  
 Wednesdays: Jenna (EHT)

**2-3 Year-Old**

Sundays: Nasheka M (EHT)  
 Wednesdays: Nasheka M (EHT)

**Teenage**

Sundays: Terrance (EHT)  
 Wednesdays: Allen (EHT)

**Lower Elementary**

Sundays: Stacey, Michelle P (EHT)  
 Wednesdays: Cierra E (EHT)

**Adult (Auditorium)**

Sundays: SFA men  
 Wednesday: Brian (Rev.)

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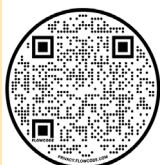


**South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue  
 Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**" He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly"**  
**Proverbs 2:7**



**If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.**