

Fruit of the Spirit

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things you wish". Galatians 5:16-17 (NKJV)

As Christians we are seeing all the signs of the end of the age, and we are watching the rise of the spirit of the antichrist in real time. The positive news to take from this is that the crazier the world becomes and the more ridiculous and tyrannical the behaviour of our leaders, potentially it is then easier to point non-believers to specific passages in the Bible and say "Look, this was written centuries ago, and it's all playing out"! "Look, there are wars, famine and earthquakes as predicted!". "Look, for the first time ever, technology could restrict our ability to buy and sell!". This is a golden evangelical opportunity. With a one world government, one world religion, one world digital currency, digital controls, and mark of the beast looming, we have all the material we need to show people the truth.

Of course, this would be the last thing Satan would want the body of Christ to be doing, hence persecution in future is practically a certainty. Satan knows we humans have an internal battle between the flesh and the spirit. He is adept at finding our weaknesses, and a great trick is to convince people sin is really 'not so bad'. In his usual lying way, he is corrupting the minds of people into believing evil is good and good is evil. Just look at the list of the 'works of the flesh' written by Paul in Galatians 5:19-21:

"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries and the like..."

Aren't most of these normalised, and even celebrated, now? This is the perverse world in which we live. And then, if anyone challenges such behaviour, especially if they are wearing a Christian hat, they are labelled intolerant, bigoted, narrow-minded, hateful, right-wing, terrorist, etc... How does a Christian ever get a voice in the mainstream media when said media is owned and run by the same people pushing all the satanic agendas?

So, what do we do? We're in front of an evangelical open goal and Satan is tying our boot laces together. The answer must be, by being resolute in standing on the truth of the Word of God and putting our trust 100% in Him. Look at what Paul says next in Galatians 5:22-26:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires".

When faced with persecution and vitriolic accusations as mentioned above, the fruit of the Spirit should shine like a beacon in all of us. Firstly, by living our lives in this way, but also by being able to push back and explain to non-believers who have been lied to that THIS is the aim of every true believer in Jesus, not what the media is saying about us. Note, it is the *aim*, and not a guarantee, that we are perfect in this way. Because we know, we have 'all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God'. But we can demonstrate to the world the love we have for each other by "restoring each other in a spirit of gentleness" (Galatians 6:1) when we do fall short. We don't need mass media to get our message across, we need mass 'fruit of the Spirit' at grass-

roots level in every interaction in our lives, whether with believers or unbelievers. This is going to be such a challenge when the pressure is on in the near future, and Bible-believing Christians are being persecuted.

It is also interesting that tolerance is seen as a virtue by the world, but not so in the Bible. – G.K. Chesterton said, ‘Tolerance is a virtue for those who have no convictions’. In other words, those who have a lack of a moral guidance and authority from above give themselves a green light to take part in, or ignore, any kind of sin and ‘works of the flesh’. Anything goes! Whereas Jesus was utterly intolerant of sin, hence why the world hates Him, and by extension, it will also hate us when we demonstrate intolerance of sin.

But the Lord wants us to be in this time and place as we witness the end of the age. We can, and should, walk in the Spirit and be the light shining on the darkness and evil, and this is also our cue to spread the good news to those feeling lost and helpless, and struggling to cope with the direction in which the world is heading. What a privilege! What a time to be alive!