

Fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law...If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. *Galatians 5:22-6:1*.

During every Emmaus team's preparation, the concept of "Fruit of the Spirit" is emphasized as important in communicating to pilgrims what life in a Christian community is all about. As an Emmaus community as a whole, we also need to approach each other with love, joy, peace, longsuffering (hopefully not too much of this!), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. In any human situations, there is always the possibility of conflicting needs, misunderstandings, feelings of anger and hurt. In Emmaus, as always, we want to try to live as Christ would have us live.

LOVE: The love evidenced in Emmaus is a love which draws attention to God, not ourselves. We remember that "The Grace of God in Jesus Christ draws people together into a new community of the Holy Spirit's own creation, a community centered in the freedom of God's love rather than in the egoism and neediness intrinsic to human love." (Stephen Bryant, Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus, pg. 69)

JOY: There are many experiences of joy during a Walk's opportunities for praise and worship, for sharing, for experiencing the Lord's Table. At least initially, especially at Send Off, we may need to inhibit some expressions of joy (for instance, the hugging) as a gift of agape to those pilgrims who may not be comfortable with these expressions of caring.

PEACE: "Peace comes from faith in God's love for all kinds of people, irrespective of their differences. Participants in Emmaus come from many different denominations and races and from all walks of life. Participants may differ considerably in their views on doctrine, church, politics, and the world. They are always at different levels of Christian maturity and experience. And yet, despite (our) differences, (we) share the peace of Christ with (each other) and foster community by modeling Christian tolerance and charity toward all." (Bryant, pg 70)

PATIENCE: Patience in Emmaus is expressed in "letting go and letting God." Team members need to be patient and not rush the Pilgrims in their experience, the "Don't Anticipate!" response. In the background, we need to be patient with each other, understanding each other's needs and that we will not all do

everything in exactly the same way. There are many roads in expressing God's love.

KINDNESS: "Kindness is love expressed in specific acts of caring attention, and undeserved charity" Emmaus is an extraordinary act of God's kindness" (we) must be careful, however, that kindness does not turn in to control. Team and community must also be careful not to call attention to their acts of kindness. (Bryant, pgs. 72-73)

GOODNESS: The Emmaus community strives to exhibit the spirit of selfless love and humble servant hood modeled by Jesus Christ. "Egos can become stumbling blocks along the way when (we) find (our)selves calling attention to (our) own or each other's giftedness or sacrificial goodness, or acting out of a personal need to be recognized, rather than turning attention to Jesus Christ and to build the community."

FAITHFULNESS: Faithfulness to God is paramount. Following that, we need to be faithful to the pilgrims, to each other, and to the Emmaus model. Keep each other, the Walk, our community in you prayers.

GENTLENESS: "The leadership style Jesus both modeled and motivates is based on the power of love, not the power of position. Jesus taught the disciples with his example more than with his words, and in this way, passed on to them the spirit of his gentle style among people. (We) need to lead with love as well as discipline, affirmation as well as expectation, and demonstrating a real commitment to help (others) give their best on the walk. (Bryant, pf. 78)

SELF-CONTROL: "Christians practice self-control by allowing themselves to be ruled by the love of Christ (2 Cor. 5:14), beginning with the tongue. The Road to Emmaus begins wherever people are when they are called to participate and ends in the fellowship of friends breaking bread together in communion with the Lord. The only rule of the road is the love of Christ." Bryant, pg. 79) Words can hurt as deeply as actions. In all our interactions with each other, no matter what emotions may be present, we need to remember WWJD, and act accordingly. If you are having difficulty with another's words or actions, approach them and talk about it in a spirit of love born of our common relationship with Jesus Christ. He will guide you.