



“The Fruit of the Spirit is RIGHTEOUSNESS!”
HOW TO BE A FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN SERIES (PART 9)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23

Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, RIGHTEOUSNESS, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:8-10

> Let's define RIGHTEOUSNESS:

Holy and upright living, in accordance with God's standard. The word righteousness comes from a root word that means "straightness." It refers to a state that conforms to an authoritative standard. Righteousness is a moral concept. God's character is the definition and source of all righteousness (Gen 18:25; Deut 32:4; Rom 9:14). Therefore, man's righteousness is defined in terms of God's.

In the Old Testament the term righteousness is used to define man's relationship with God (Ps 50:6; Jer 9:24) and with other people (Jer 22:3). In the context of relationships, righteous action is action that promotes the peace and well-being of human beings in their relationships to one another.

For example, Adam and Eve would have acted righteously in their relationship with God if they had obeyed Him, because His commands defined that relationship. The Ten Commandments and related laws defined Israel's relationship with God. To obey those laws was to act righteously, because such obedience maintained the covenant relationship between God and His people.

The sacrificial system in the Old Testament and the cross of Jesus in the New Testament show man's need for righteousness. Sin is disobedience to the terms that define man's relationship with God and with other people.

Since the FALL in the Garden of Eden, man is inherently unrighteous. As the prophet Isaiah said, *"We are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away"* (Isa 64:6). Man cannot be righteous in the sight of God on his own merits. Therefore, man must have God's righteousness imputed, or transferred, to him.

The cross of Jesus is a public demonstration of God's righteousness. God accounts or transfers the righteousness of Christ to those who trust in Him (Rom 4:3-22; Gal 3:6; Phil 3:9). We do not become righteous because of our inherent goodness; God sees us as righteous because of our identification by faith with His Son. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- Regarding righteousness in Christ we read in Hebrews 1:8-9 - But to the Son *He* says: *"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions."*

> In the Old Testament "lawlessness" challenged "righteousness" in the days of Noah! - Hebrews 11:7 - *By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

2 Peter 2:4-10 - *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority.*

> Righteousness begins by believing in God and what He says; like Abraham - Genesis 15:1-6 - *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

> Righteousness is observed and lived according Deuteronomy Ch. 6 (let's read).

> Old Testament "heroes of faith" worked righteousness - Hebrews 11:32-35 - *And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

> In the New Testament Jesus said - Matthew 5:6 - *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*

Matthew 5:10 - *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 6:33-34 - *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

> All Christians are called to produce the fruit of righteousness, let's look to the context of Ephesians 5:8-10 - *Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, RIGHTEOUSNESS, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.*

> Let's study RIGHTEOUSNESS in the context of Ephesians Chapter 5 – 6:20.

- Observe five life lessons for RIGHTEOUSNESS:

#1 - (5:1-21) Let's have righteous LIVES!

#2 - (5:22-33) Let's have righteous MARRIAGES!

#3 - (6:1-4) Let's have righteous FAMILIES!

#4 - (6:5-9) Let's have righteous PROSPERITY!

#5 - (6:10-23) *Let's be righteous SOLDIERS for CHRIST!*

> How does a Child of God produce fruit?

By reading, studying, and staying in the Word of God - - -

*The Holy Spirit of God
works through the
Word of God,
in the
Child of God,
to conform us to the
Image of God,
that is Jesus Christ
The Son of God,
that we may manifest the
Righteousness of God,
to the praise and
Glory of God,
as children of the
Kingdom of God,
anxiously awaiting our
. . . Redemption by God . . .*