

A Stark Alternative Galatians 5:22-26

It's a vital alternative (5:22-23)

Context is everything!

The difference between the symptom and the root problem:

But the fruit of the Spirit ...

The works of the flesh are disorderly and destructive; the fruit of the Spirit is calming and constructive

It's not about goals; it's about results

"Fruit is always the miraculous, the created; it is never the result of willing, but always a growth. The fruit of the Spirit is a gift of God, and only He can produce it. They who bear it know as little about it as a tree knows of its fruit. They know only the power of Him on whom their life depends."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Three triads:

Love, joy peace (1 Cor 13:4-8)

Forbearance, kindness, goodness

Faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

It's about dying (5:24)

The frustration of confusing symptom and cause

Our role – we are the crucifiers; a grim task

It's about keeping in step (5:25-26)

Rather than focus on individual characteristics, we focus on the perspective of the Spirit

Keeping in step involves a whole new way of thinking
(Rom 12:2)

The key recap – don't be conceited or falsely proud