

The value of displaying “The Fruit of the Spirit” in the workplace

Love: Is a commitment to others freely given without counting the cost or calculating one’s own profit. Rooted in the Love God showed us before we knew him.

At work, a consistent love towards others, even those you don’t like, will cultivate trust and orient your heart to apply many of the other fruit.

Joy: Is a delight of the mind that is independent of present happiness. It comes from powerful memories and our hope, through faith, in our eternal future with God.

At work, it is a powerful defense against bad news or fear that things will never get better.

Peace: Is a Contentment and Well-Being rooted in the reconciliation with God that Jesus accomplished through his sacrifice.

At work, it gives us a steady hand under pressure as our awareness of our spiritual security puts day to day challenges demands in perspective.

Patience: Is choosing not to get offended when others offend you. It is rooted in the offenses we know God has forgiven us and the acknowledgement that we often offend others without knowing it.

At work, it is the grease in the gears that keeps things running smoothly when friction would be damaging or distracting otherwise. Those who accumulate enough trust may also be able to serve the workplace as peacemakers.

Kindness: Is active love, the visible demonstration of your feeling towards others. It is rooted in the Love you cultivate towards others.

At work, it is blessing others – both inside and outside your organization – in ways big and small. Through kindness, we cultivate trust in others who come to accept that we care about them.

Goodness: Is the active choosing and following of moral good. It doesn’t merely try not to do something wrong, but actively looks for the wrong we are blind to and may already be doing. It is rooted in our respect for God’s holiness and our desire to be more like him.

At work, it lets us uphold the moral goodness of our organizations within the boundaries of our responsibilities.

Faithfulness: Is the practice of holding fast to what you know or have promised in the face of challenges. It is rooted in our regular efforts to remind ourselves of what we believe about God and our commitment to Him.

At work, it develops a “steady hand” that doesn’t lose heart when a job is more difficult than expected and cultivates “faithful friendships” that are a blessing to those around you and a true sign of Christian life.

Gentleness: Is gracious restraint and is rooted in the fruit of patience we cultivate towards others, and often in the humility that comes from brokenness.

At work, Gentleness can often gain cooperation from others where overt force might provoke their pride to resistance or stubbornness

Self-Control: Is the self-discipline to consistently demonstrate the other Fruit of the Spirit. It is rooted in putting our love for others over our selfish desires, peace that keeps us steady and content, and in the practice of the other fruit, which are woven together as a defense to many temptations and pitfalls we may encounter.

At work, Self-Control projects a maturity that is a prerequisite for being given greater responsibility and is the ultimate insurance against a moral failure costing you your reputation or career.