

EVERYBODY NEEDS A COACH

GALATIANS 5:19-22

1. Pastor Mark discusses the difference between “Resume’ Virtues” and “Eulogy Virtues.” In your own words, how would you define the difference between these two terms?
2. Why do you think our modern culture tends to focus so much more on external accomplishments rather than internal character qualities?
3. Philosopher Dallas Willard once said, “This world does not teach us to pay attention to what matters most.” What do you think he means by that?
4. While both external accomplishments and internal character qualities are important, why are internal character qualities more important?
5. Read Galatians 5:19-22. The Apostle Paul is drawing a contrast between the “fruit” or the acts of the flesh, and the “fruit” or the acts of the Holy Spirit. What are the natural consequences that flow from living according to the flesh? What are the natural consequences that flow from living according to the Holy Spirit?

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6. Pastor Mark suggests that life gives us plenty of opportunity to practice developing the fruit of the Holy Spirit. What sort of relationships, circumstances, and challenges in life give us the opportunity to develop love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness and self-control?
7. Pastor Mark argues that if we are going to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to develop the fruit of the spirit, we must be very intentional. Having a vague aspiration to “be a better person” will not result in character growth. Why do you think so many people wish to be better, but don’t work to get better?
8. In your mind, what is the difference between “trying” to be a more mature Christian and “training” to become a more mature Christian?
9. Pastor Mark tells the story of how Ben Franklin embarked on an intentional training regimen in order to develop certain virtues in his life. This regimen involved focusing on one virtue each week and keeping a daily journal to track how he was doing at practicing that virtue. How might this level of intentionality help Christians better cooperate with the Holy Spirit in developing a God-honoring character?
10. While God does not expect perfection from us, God does expect measurable progress in reasonable time. How would you evaluate your current progress in developing the fruit of the Spirit? What can you do to continue and perhaps improve that progress?