**Grace Abounding**

**A Sermon Series through the Book of Galatians**

**“[How To] Nip It In The Bud”**

**Galatians 5: 22 - 24**

**The Bible understands and teaches us that sin is defeated in our heart not simply when we start doing something but when we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ doing something in its place.**

**The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ formula is God’s prescription for the Christian to defeat sin and grow into Christlikeness.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is moving out of the old ways into the new ways and thus becoming more in actuality what we already are in Christ by the power of God working in us.**

**The fruit of the Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to every follower of Christ. Not all the Spirit’s gifts are for all believers but all of the Spirit’s fruit is. This fruit will be a product of the Spirit’s work in the life of the believer.**

**If you are a believer the fruit of v 23-24 will not be perfectly observed in your life but it will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and increasing in your life.**

**Fruit is not produced from a dead thing but a living thing. In the same way the fruit of Spirit will never grow apart from being united to Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of sin.**

**The word fruit also reminds us of the nature and speed by which it comes into our lives: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**As believers, we do not often see what is being produced in the soil of our heart by the Holy Spirit and yet we must keep cultivating the ground by the constant cycle of repentance, putting on, and putting off and eventually we will see the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and increase of these fruits.**

**Each one of these fruits can only be cultivated in our lives by being in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The word agape speaks exclusively of selfless and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ love. It describes the kind of love that is distinctly others and not self-minded. Agape is the same word God uses to describe His own love for believers.**

**We must put off division and, in its place, put on the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The bedrock of the fruit of joy is the believer’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that all things are right and well between them and God. Therefore, whatever circumstances have been or will be in their life comes from their sovereign Lord who has loved them already in Christ and will continue to show His love to them in this situation.**

**We must put off inordinate over desires that become sinful and, in their place, put on the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that we have in our sovereign and loving Lord.**

**A good and necessary application of the fruit of peace that we have received from God in Christ is that this same peace should naturally extend from us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the default disposition of the believer.**

**God has made us at peace with Him. Therefore, we put off enmity with others and put on its place an attitude that seeks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with others.**

**The key to patience is developing the habit of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; remembering that the patience and restraint that you are showing to others is little compared to the patience that God shows you.**

**The believer is called to put off anger and, in its place, put on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The fruit of kindness and goodness is shown an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ readiness to seek to do others good by serving them, meeting a need, laying down our preferences, being generous and hospitable, and things like these.**

**We are to put off dissentions and put on a disposition to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ toward others.**

**Faithfulness is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; being a person who keeps their word and does what they say; a person who lives consistently in their life that which they believe.**

**The believer must put off idolatry, sexual immorality, impurity and put on in their place \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**A gentle person is not harsh, cruel, cutting. Rather they have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in themselves that doesn’t angrily insist one’s own way because they understand that their way is to be God’s way and so they gladly lay down their rights and preferences for the good of another.**

**We must put off strife and put on the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in its place.**

**A self-controlled person knows when to stop and has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ themselves to be able to notice the subtle signs of beginning to follow the works of the flesh.**

**The putting on of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is necessary then to walk by the Spirit and not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

**At \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a real death has happened and a real new nature came into being. This is the only way we are enabled to put off the old and put on the new (Galatians 2: 20).**

**God has a role for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to play. The Spirit and the believer together put off the works of the flesh and put on the fruit of the Spirit.**

Blanks: start; put off & put on; Sanctification; given; evident; faith & repentance; gradually; growth; community; sacrificial; love; confidence; joy; peace; others; peace; remembering; patience; ever-present; kind & good; steadfastness; faithfulness; humbleness; gentleness; trained; self-control; justification; believer;

Congregational Scripture Reading – Ephesians 4: 22 – 28

“…put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.”