

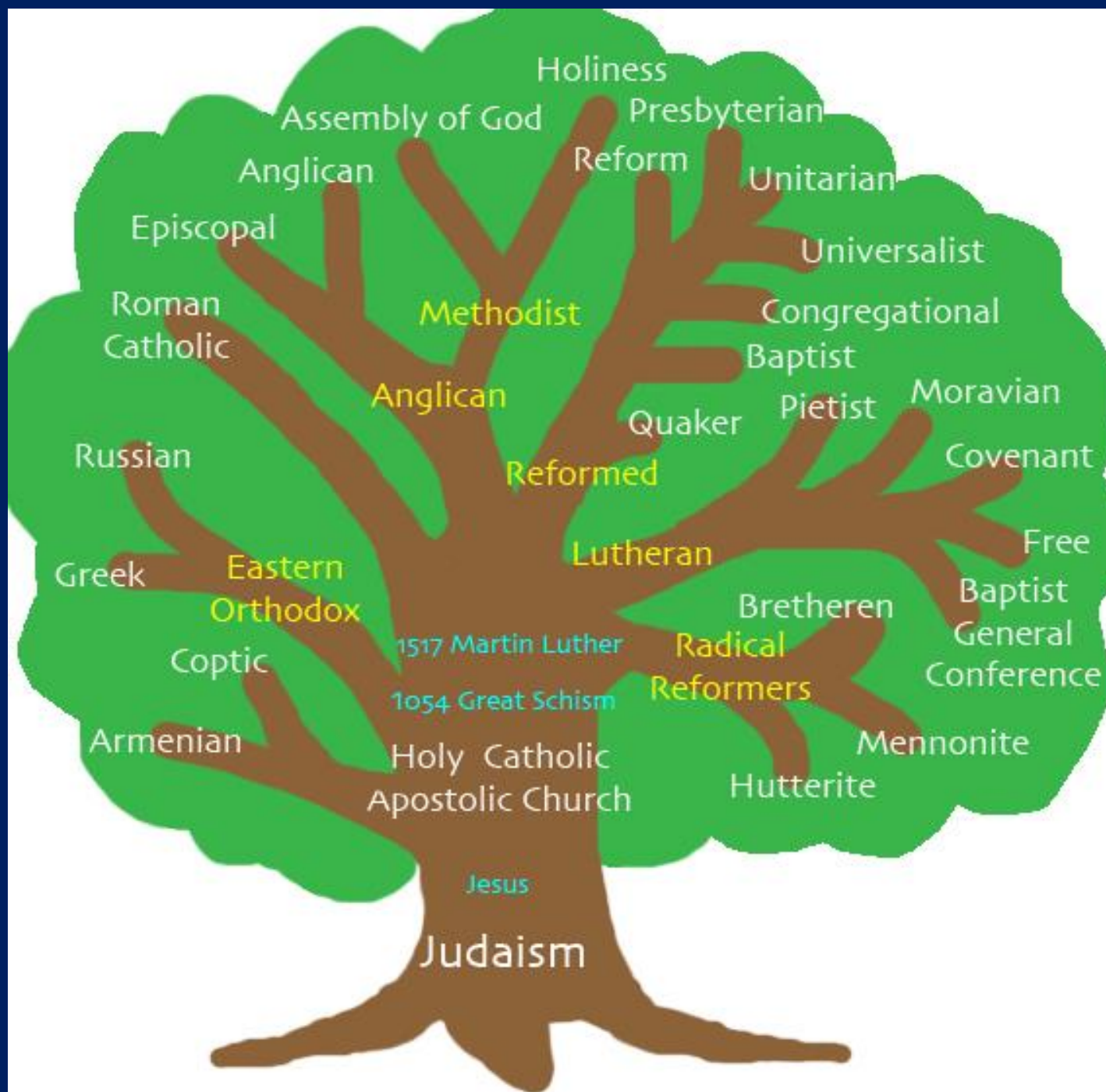
*Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness,
self-control; against such things there is
no law. (24) Now those who belong to
Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with
its passions and desires.*

Notice that these are the “fruit of the
spirit” not the “fruit of a Christian”.

What is the “fruit of a Christian”?

Joh 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (2) "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. (3) "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (4) "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

(5) "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. (6) "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. (8) "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.



**This is
not the
tree of
which
Jesus
Speaks!**

To find out what the tree is, we have
to find out what the seed that
started the tree is.

Luk 8:11 "Now the parable is this:
the seed is the word of God.

Truly, another Christian is the fruit of
a Christian.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If God tells me he gives me these, I believe that he does. The big question is whether I have opened the gift!

God offers the gift of salvation to everyone who would take it. A lot of folks, say I'm not going to do anything to take your gift, you have to force it down my throat so I'll know that I didn't have to do anything to take it.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

God gave His Son that you might have eternal life. But He wants you to have a committed belief and buy into the gift of His son.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

You have to openly accept the gift.

1Pe 3:21 And corresponding to that,
baptism now saves you--not the removal of
dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for
a good conscience--through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ,

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized
into Christ have clothed yourselves with
Christ.

I'm convinced that all too many Christians have failed to open the gift – the fruit of the Spirit – that God makes available to everyone of us.

Love – there's a song about that.

Well, I spent a lifetime lookin' for you
Single bars and good time lovers were never true
Playin' a fools game, hopin' to win
Tellin' those sweet lies and losin' again
I was lookin' for love in all the wrong places
Lookin' for love in too many faces
Searchin' their eyes, lookin' for traces
Of what I'm dreamin' of
Hopin' to find a friend and a lover
I'll bless the day I discover
Another heart lookin' for love

We can see what true love is in the words of Jesus

Rom 5:7-8 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. (8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Eph 5:28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

Joy – “a state of happiness”

Are you really happy?

Would anyone else describe you as a “happy”
person?

The oldest joke in world is a game we all
(hopefully) played with our children – “I’m going
to tickle you.”

It brings a smile to a small face every time when
the tickler is smiling and the ticklee knows they
are loved. Jesus loves us. Do you smile a lot?

Peace – that's for you, not the world.

Act 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds In Christ Jesus.

How can you be calm, don't you know the world is about to end? "That's what I'm hoping for"

Lord, grant me patience – right now!

This is one you really have to work on to accept. To have patience, you have to be tried – and that's when you lose your patience.

Put things in perspective. You're not a little child that gets to scream your head off for hours. Grow up – trust God.

Heb 13:5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Kindness – that's easiest with small children, cats
and puppies.

They look at you with those innocent eyes and
you just have to love them. You may want to hurt
an adult, a big cat or a full grown dog, but to hurt
a small one takes a sick person.

We have it in us, but we have to work hard to be
kind to brethren, our wives/husbands, children
and those who irritate us in general.

Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one
another, as God in Christ forgave
you.

We have to bear in mind that
someone forgave us of things a lot
bigger than others have done to us.

Goodness – that only comes up around Christmas time.

You better watch out
You better not cry
You better not pout
I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town

People with small children (and those who can remember that long ago) are the only ones who know the sweetness of children threatened with that song.

At Christmas time, children just know there's a lot at stake and they don't want to miss out (they're gullible that way).

Have you been intentionally mean to someone lately – I really get upset at bad drivers – but then I try to be extra nice to old folks (they are often very slow and forgetful).

We can all practice the kindness that God gave us by letting that driver cut in front of us. And I know that's not on the same level!

Faithfulness – being true to our calling.

God has given this to help us through to the end.

1Co 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Rev 2:10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Gentleness – Gr. *chrēstotēs* –
Strong: usefulness, that is, moral
excellence (in character or demeanor)

Thayer 1) moral goodness, integrity
2) not causing harm or damage,
kindness

choosing like Joseph to refrain from
immorality

Opportunities abound for
gentleness as it is described in the
Lexicons.

On every hand we are tempted,
whether on the beach or the streets.
To stand for Jesus boldly with the
internal knowledge that we respond
to a higher calling.

self-control – the ability to control
desire, the tongue and the body to
do God's will.

Php 4:11 Not that I speak from
want; for I have learned to be
content in whatever circumstances I
am.

I speak to those who are members of the church—those who have been redeemed by the blood of the lamb and I ask, “How are you doing?”

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If you are here and you're not yet a Christian, why not choose to follow the Son of God, who exemplified these virtues? Allow God to dwell in you and fill you with the fruit of the Spirit.

Act 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'