

## A Marriage Minute™

A simple help to make your marriage just a little better this week.

### FRUIT INSPECTORS



*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. - Galatians 5:22,23*

My heart breaks each time I meet a believer who has known the Lord for a significant amount of time, and is still struggling with the same issues they struggled with before he or she came to know Christ. What happened in those years? Has there been no growth? Being born again is just the beginning. A newborn baby doesn't stay newborn. He grows. Yet, I'm sorry to say that many who are newly born into the Kingdom of God remain newborns. They simply don't grow. How can we tell how much we're growing? Don't go by how well one knows the Bible, or how active one is in church. That's no measure of Christian maturity. That only measures one's religiosity. Spiritual growth can only be measured by the fruit of God's Spirit evident in one's life. That's the true test.

Take a look at each of the listed fruit and rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10, (1 being the least, 10 meaning you've arrived). How much of each of the Spirit's fruit is evident in your life? Then do the same for your spouse. Then sit down together and switch papers and dialogue on the subject. Then do it again next year, and the next, and the next, until Jesus comes for the harvest.

Questions for Dialogue: What fruit of the Spirit is God trying to develop in me this year, in particular? What fruit is he trying to develop in my spouse?

Prayer for the both of us: Lord, help us to increase in our fruit day-by-day, so that others might see in us the fruit of your Spirit, and that we would bring honor to your name.

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*This Couples Devotional is brought to you by Marriage & Family Savers Ministries. Visit them at [www.marriageandfamily.org](http://www.marriageandfamily.org)*

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