

David' Heir: Principles from Gal 5:16–21: Application of Maturity's 4 Problem-Solving Devices: Patience, Kindness, & Honor; Maintenance of Application Requires Faithfulness to the Word, Grace Orientation, & Self-Control, Gal 5:22–23; the Believer & Retroactive Positional Truth, v. 24 cf. Rom 6:3–11; 7:1–6

22. The following three virtues are designed for application to others and each is dependent upon the three mental-attitude virtues just noted:
- Galatians 5:22b** - ... **patience** [ μακροθυμία (*makrothumía*):<sup>†</sup> forbearance, long-suffering, self-restraint in relationships with others: to tolerate; to put up with ], **kindness** [ χρηστότης (*chrēstótēs*): mellow: free of garishness or stridency, pleasant, agreeable, laid-back; kind & gentle ], **goodness** [ ἀγαθωσύνη (*agathōsúnē*): includes benevolence & also a willingness to defend truth but with tact, poise, & savoir faire; the corrective influence mentioned in Romans 15:14 ],
23. In order to maintain application of these six virtues, there must be an orientation to grace that not only sustains one's advance but also defends against retrogression.
24. The final three virtues take up these issues as verse 22 concludes and they continue in verse 23:
- Galatians 5:22c** - ... **faithfulness** [ πίστις (*pístis*): that which causes trust & faith—faithfulness, reliability on making Bible doctrine Priority One ],
- v. 23** - **gentleness** [ πραότης (*praótēs*): grace orientation toward God: acceptance that all things work together for good, Romans 8:28 ], **self-control** [ ἐγκράτεια (*enkráteia*): restraint regarding food, sex, & speech ], **against such there is no law.**
25. Having and applying these nine virtues do not violate any laws, Mosaic, cultural, or social. All believers must strive to acquire these and others like them and no law should ever suppress them.
26. The paragraph continues by noting the doctrine of retroactive positional truth which identifies the believer with the spiritual death, physical death, and burial of Jesus Christ.
- Galatians 5:24** - **Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh** [ σὰρξ (*sárx*): the sin nature ] **with its passions** [ πάθημα (*páthēma*): impulses ] **and desires** [ ἐπιθυμία (*epithumía*): lust patterns ].

<sup>†</sup> Another virtue not mentioned in this passage is ὑπομονή (*hypomonē*) which is the virtue of bearing up under and enduring issues related to things or circumstances. See James 1:3–4, “endurance” (NASB).