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Fruits of the Spirit,

Love, Joy, Peace, Long-suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance.

Briefly considered and explained by the Reverend and Learned Dr. *John Edwards*, in his first Discourse on the eighth Article of the Creed, as published in his *Body of Divinity*. A. D. 1713.

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The *Fruits* of the *Spirit*.

LET us consult the Apostle in *Gal. 5. 22. 23.* Where he reckons up the particular *Fruits* of the *Spirit* (no less than nine) If they may be thought to be the Effects and Products of that Divine Being.

The first is *Love*, Love to all Mankind, a hearty Desire and a careful Endeavour to do Good and to communicate, to assist the Necessitous, to relieve the Distressed of what Rank and Quality soever they be, or whatever Kind of Distress it is that they labour under.

The second Fruit is *Joy*, opposed to a morose and sour Temper, a quarrelous and repining Spirit, and consequently denotes a contented and quiet Mind, a being satisfied with our Condition, let it be what it will: it is a chearful surrendring our selves to the divine Pleasure and Disposal, and rejoicing in doing our Duty in whatsoever State of Life we are placed.

The next Fruit is *Peace*, whereby is signified to us a Mind free from all extravagant

[3]
 gant Passion, an avoiding of Schism and Sedition. A studying to be quiet and live peaceably with all Men, as much as in us lies. When this World at first was but a rude and indigested Chaos, this Spirit moved upon it, & hatched it into this good Order which we now see it in. And this is still the Work of the *Spirit*, it delights in Order and Comeliness, it checks all rude and extravagant Actions, it composeth the Turbulency of Men's Minds, and it inspireth them with humble and peaceable Tempers. If you see Men of another Spirit, if you observe them in all their Actions to be disorderly, fierce and mutinous, believe them not, when they pretend to the Spirit, but pronounce of them as St. *Jude* doth of this Sort of Persons, *They are sensual, having not the Spirit.* Where the Spirit dwells, there Unity takes up her Lodging: but where Divisions and Distractions are fomented by evil Minds, there, there the Spirit of Satan reigns. On the contrary, the Spirit of Christ is a Spirit not only of *Love* (as I said before) but of *Unity*, which is the genuine Consequent of that: Therefore we must endeavour to keep the *Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace*, as the Apostle exhorts us in *Eph. 4. 3.*

The fourth Fruit is *Long-Suffering*, that is

