

Something to think about: 16 May 2010

### **What's it all about? Or the fruits of the Spirit.**

“By their fruits you will know them” Jesus tells us. And later, in Galatians, we are instructed that love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are the fruits of the spirit that we should both look for in others and seek after in our own lives. Much of the teaching of Jesus and the teaching and challenge of the gospel writers who help us understand the meaning of Jesus life, point toward how these fruits can be achieved in our lives. It seems to me we urgently need to remember these teachings about what we should be seeking in life as we evaluate the goals being set by governments as well as the aspirations of people in places of power in our social and business systems. It was with the fruits of the spirit in mind that I read with horror the front page of the Herald one day last week and noted the salaries being paid to a bundle of men - human like the rest of us as far as I know!

In what way is the work of any single human male worth \$5million a year in remuneration? Or how does it come about that the work of an individual man, let alone a CEO of a budget store selling cheap goods, made in trade free zones overseas to cash strapped New Zealanders, is worth \$3.8m a year? I know I have chosen a path in life that is never destined to provide the opportunity to make millions of dollars; I know too I could be accused of envy. But notwithstanding those possibilities my brain and sense of what is right cannot accept that these obscene salaries, and others like them, are in the best interests of the individuals concerned or society or national wellbeing. I ask “what is the point of accruing all that money?” I am very interested in the ways these huge sums of money assist the men who earn them (and the communities that they are part), to become persons who express more fully in their lives the fruits of the spirit: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. **susan**