

All You Need is Love

Series: Fruit of the Spirit

August 9, 2015

INTRODUCTION

The Apostle Paul lists the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 – “*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.*” Oftentimes, we think of this list like a fruit basket, filled with different kinds of fruit, but if you look these verses carefully, you’ll see that it’s actually just one single fruit. These 9 qualities are the natural byproduct of living and keeping in step with the Holy Spirit’s leading upon our lives. Today, we will be examining the first one – love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Based on your personal thoughts, experiences and observations of our world and our society, how would you describe or define love? What are some personal examples of how you have received God’s love?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. What four gifts are mentioned in these verses? According to these verses, what is the significance of having love in the administration of these various gifts?
3. Take a moment and reflect on all of the activities, responsibilities and relationships that you have. Would you say that they are motivated by a loving heart or by something else?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. According to these verses, what does love consist of, and conversely, what does it *not* consist of? What strikes you about this description of love?
5. Read John 15:5. Jesus uses of the image of a vine in communicating the importance of remaining or abiding in Him. How does this illustration help clarify how we are to nurture this fruit of love in our lives?

CONCLUSION

Spiritual maturity is defined at its core, not by how good we are, or how busy we are with various Christian and church activities, or even about how much we know in regards to the Bible and theology. It’s about staying connected to the one true Vine, Jesus Christ. The only way we can bear the Fruit of the Spirit is when we stay connected and attached to the Vine, because when we remain in Him we get all the spiritual nutrients that we need to truly live and love the way that God has called us to.

“4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.” – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8