

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Love

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Scripture: **Galatians 5:22-23**

Series: **The Fruit of the Spirit**

OVERVIEW

What does a Christian look like? What are the signs of a Christian? What does it feel like to *be* a Christian? From time to time, questions like these may be asked by believers and non-believers alike. Scripture is clear that Christians will demonstrate positive attributes of godly character produced through the Holy Spirit at work in each believer in Jesus Christ. All of the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) are grown from a renewed heart given by God (Ezekiel 36:26-27). While all nine are vitally important, **love is the most deeply felt and most visible quality of the Christian life.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Colossians 3:6; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Psalm 1:3; Matthew 3:8, 22:36-40, 7:15-20; John 15:8, 13:34-35, 15:13; Romans 7:21-25, 13:8, 5:8; 1 John 4:8, 4:19; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before becoming a Christian, what was your preconceived notion of how Christians looked and acted? How has that view changed as your walk with the Lord has matured?
2. Why is it important to study and gain a better understanding of the fruit of the Spirit? What role(s) does the fruit of the Spirit play in the life of a Christian?
3. **Love is the mark of a true disciple.** Consider Jesus' words in John 13:34-35. How well are you demonstrating this? Can other believers attest to your love for them? Reviewing John 13:34-35, would non-believers consider you to be a disciple of Christ by how you love?
4. **Love is the summation of God's laws.** Consider Romans 13:8 and Matthew 22:36-40. What do we owe each other? Is this ever fully repaid? Discuss how God's commandments are a pathway to the love of God for his glory and love of others for their good.
5. **Love is selfless service.** Identify characteristics about selfless love that distinguishes it from other types of love. In your relationships, are there opportunities for you to willingly demonstrate selfless love? What stops you? How can you overcome those impediments?
6. **Love is the fountainhead of all other graces.** As referenced in the quote by D.L. Moody, love cannot be separated from the other virtues. Discuss how love is represented in and essential to each of the other eight fruits of the Spirit?
7. **Love is first experienced and then learned.** Read 1 John 4:19. Why is the order of "who loved first" important? Discuss how embracing and believing in God's love for you as demonstrated through the work of Jesus Christ can spur you on to love others.