

Title: Fruit of the Spirit

Subtitle: Love

Text: Galatians 5:22-23

Date: May 29, 2022

Subject Matter: Holy Spirit. Love. Sacrifice.

1. Remember _____

2. Don't _____

3. Aim _____

Galatians 5:16-26

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.** 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Read **John 3:16**; **Romans 5:6-8** and **Ephesians 3:14-19**. In your own words, describe why God's love is unrivaled, supreme, and in a category by itself.
2. Read **1 John 4:7-21**. Why is an "unloving Christian" such a contradiction of terms? How do some people rationalize away the demand and necessity of emulating the love of Christ in their own attitudes and behaviors?
3. Read **Isaiah 55:8-9** and **Luke 16:15**. Of course, as with most things, the world has a counterfeit version of "love" that never truly reflects the essence of the biblical love Christ modeled for us. How does what might pass for love in this world stand in contrast to what the Bible presents to us as real love?
4. Read **Galatians 5:16-17**; **1 Peter 2:1** and **Philippians 2:19-21**. How would you respond to someone who says if love "is the fruit of the Spirit," then it should not be a struggle for Christians to love? Why should it be no surprise to us that being like Timothy is going to be a challenge?
5. Read **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**. How does this description of biblical love motivate you? Which aspects of this lofty view of Christian love will likely prove to be the biggest stretch for you in this current season of life?