

The Fruit of LOVE!

Galatians 5:22-23

East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction

- Fall as the most beautiful season of the year
- Master Painter is painting on the canvas of our lives.
 - Before we were saved, our “canvas” was dirty because of sin.
 - But God gloriously saved us by grace and has created in us a clean “canvas”
 - God’s desire is to paint a beautiful portrait of Jesus Christ on the canvas of our lives.
 - Cannot produce Christlikeness in our own strength and ingenuity.
 - Legalism cannot produce Christlikeness.
 - Legalism is adding something to one’s salvation.
 - Legalism is adding extra-biblical rules and regulations, by elevating an application of God’s Word to the level of Scripture.
 - Legalism produces outward conformity but not genuine Christlikeness.
 - Can only be produced as we learn to “walk in the Spirit”.
 - As we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.
 - As we walk in the Spirit, we will experience an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ whereby we abide in Him and He abides in us. Through the indwelling Spirit of God, He produces in us the “fruit of the Spirit”—the composite picture of Jesus Christ.

The Fruit of Love!

A. General Observations

1. We do not need to pray that the Spirit would produce fruit in us. He already is.
2. Every fruit of the Spirit has corresponding commands in Scripture for us to obey.

B. Specific on the “Fruit of Love”

1. The Primacy of Love

- a. “Love” may be a synonym for “fruit” and thus encompasses the others. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13; Colossians 3:10-14
- b. “Love” is paramount in Jesus’ ethos.—Matthew 22:37-40; Galatians 5:13-14

2. The Meaning of “Love”

- a. “Love” as used in society today.
- b. Three Greek words for “love”
 - 1) “Eros”—physical, romantic, sexual love
 - 2) “Phileo”—emotional, brotherly, Platonic, friendship love
 - 3) “Agape”—love of the will, a choice—a love that gives sacrificially for the benefit of others
- c. “Love” defined by the God Himself—1 John 4:8; John 17:26; 3:16; Romans 5:8

3. The Model of Love—Jesus Christ

- a. We are to “walk in love as Christ also loved us and gave Himself for us”—Ephesians 5:1-2
- b. Jesus Christ’s death was “an offering and a sacrifice to God.” Matthew 26:39, 42; Philippians 2:8
- c. Refined definition of “Love”: “Giving of oneself first to God for the benefit of others”
 - 1) Illustration: Churches of Macedonia—2 Corinthians 8:1-5
 - 2) Ramifications:
 - a) Love for man without love for God is mere philanthropy. 1 Corinthians 13:3
 - b) Love for God must come before love for men. Service flows from a heart of love for God.

4. The Manifestation of Love

- a. We can love others because God first loved us.—1 John 4:9-11; 3:16
- b. When we love God we will also love our fellow man. It is a tell-tale sign that we are a genuine believer. —1 John 4:7-8; 3:14-15; 4:20-21
- c. But our love must be more than mere words.—1 John 3:17-18
- d. By love, the world will see that we are indeed genuine followers of Jesus Christ.—John 13:34-35