

Works of the Flesh / Fruit of the Spirit

Part 22 (love 1 The Love of GOD)

Scripture: Galatians 5:16-26

Scripture Reading: John chapter 15:1-8

INTRO:

Jesus said, in the reading that was read for us;

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

And one of the things I need to ask you, as we start the second half of this series is; ‘are you bearing fruit? As a Christian, are you bearing much fruit? And if we are Christians bearing fruit, are you ready and willing that God will prune us that we would bear more fruit?

I think we did a lot of weeding in our hearts with the first half of this series, when we looked at the works of the flesh, and now with this second half we might find that God may want to do a lot of pruning so that we produce more fruit.

Because Jesus also said in verses 4 and 5 of the opening scripture;

...As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Jesus says the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, we cannot produce any fruit without Christ, in fact without Christ all we are capable of is what He says at the end of verse 5;

for without Me you can do nothing.

Any 'fruit' that we humans produce without Christ is only earthly fruit, humanistic fruit, soulish fruit, carnal fruit and is worth nothing in the eternal realm of God, without Me you can do nothing.

This is why I told you in the introduction, that man cannot produce fruit, man cannot produce real physical fruit, and man cannot produce Spiritual fruit, and this is why Paul calls these fruits of his list, fruits of the Spirit, because they come only from God and can only be produced by God.

If you remember from that last message, I also said that the world knows the things of this list, it knows about love, the things of joy and of peace but the things the world knows are only the things and feelings we are created with when God created man. And because of that, one of the first things I need to tell you is that the things in Paul's list are not feelings.

The things in this list, the way Paul is addressing them are not feelings. Yes man has been created with the ability to do and feel the things of this list like love, joy and peace. But as I see it none of these that Paul refers to in his list are about feelings. And we will see more of this as we go through this half of the series.

Now to quickly explain your outline, I have divided each one of these fruits of the Spirit into 3 sub points. The first is how this fruit of the Spirit or attribute is first and foremost found in God.

The second sub point is how these things are in the world, experienced in the world and carried out by the world, not as the fruit of the Spirit but as what we are created with. And how that worldly version of this fruit always falls short, becomes corrupted, is temporal and earthly and is not the fruit of the Spirit that is found in God.

And then thirdly, how each fruit is to be found in the New Man, in the Christian as a fruit of the Spirit, a fruit generated by the Holy Spirit who dwells inside of us if we are truly in Christ.

And with that we begin with the first one in Paul's list which is love.

A. LOVE

Just last week after the message I was asked if I had defined love already in preparation for these messages, well in one small sense, yes otherwise you wouldn't be hearing about here this morning.

But there is the question, how does one really begin to describe or define love when we already know that love 'is' such a very large topic. Now, you may have noticed that on the back of your bulletin I inserted the lyric to the Hymn 'The Love of God' and I've asked the song leader of we can close with that hymn today.

The hymn is not found in our new hymnals so if the ushers would, after the message hand out some of the old red books for those who did not get a bulletin, we can sing that song for a close.

But in the first line of the song the lyric goes;

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can
ever tell,

It goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the
lowest hell;

And then the last stanza goes;

Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of
parchment made,

Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a
scribe by trade,

To write the love of God above would drain the ocean
dry,

Nor could the scroll contain the whole thought
stretched from sky to sky.

Very wonderful words describing the great height and depth and length
and width of God's love, but even there, it still doesn't tell us what
that love is.

Well, the Greek word Paul uses here in list is agape, *ag-ah'-pay* love, most of you have heard of this love before, and we have often heard it said that it is the love that dose what is right. It is Strong's number 26, and definition number 1 in the Online Bible Greek Lexicon says;

brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence

Of the love of men to men; especially Christians towards Christians, which is enjoined and prompted by their religion, whether the love be viewed as in the soul or expressed,

And then it continues to describe it as being the love of men towards God and God towards men and also of Christ and the many ways it is seen in the bible. And many other dictionaries have long definitions in trying to define this love.

One part of Vine's lengthy definition on love simply says that;

Love can be known only from the actions it prompts.

And I pondered that phrase for some time and thought perhaps that is a key to describing or explaining the love of God, in that His Love can be known only from the actions it prompts. And from that definition I want to start with sub point number 1 and look at the love of God.

1. The Love of GOD

Because when looking at the areas of how God loves, you must also look at the areas of how He chastises us because of His love, how He rebukes and disciplines because of His love, how He also provides and cares for those He loves, and all the other things He does because of His love, and all of these are aspects that are prompted by God's love.

Vine's dictionary also says in its definition of love that;

God's love is seen in the gift of His Son. But obviously this is not the love of complacency, or affection, that is, it was not drawn out by any excellency in its objects. It was an exercise of the divine will in deliberate choice, made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself.

EOQ

In short he says that it is not because of any goodness in us that He showed this love but it is because of his attribute of love that He loves. John says 'God is love' and

I think that one of the best ways to explain God's love is to let God speak for Himself, and to show us His love by His word.

Because whatever we find as the love of God from the word of God, is the love that is in God, in God the Father, in His Son Jesus and in the Holy Spirit, because all are one and all are God.

Because if we think of Vine's definition of; 'God's love is seen in the gift of His Son', it brings to mind the most well know verse in the bible that shows us God's love, which I think it would be the verse of John 3:16, in Jesus own words it says;

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

And when we read this verse, think of how great a love God has for His creation, if we couple this verse to what Vine says, that;

Love can be known only from the actions it prompts.

What great action of love did God perform through His Son Jesus Christ? Well, He so loved us, that He gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross for us, in our place! See, how many of us would be willing to sacrifice one of our own innocent children for some heathen sinner of the world? Not to likely, but that is what God did. Paul expounds it even deeper by saying in Romans chapter 5 verse 8;

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Died for us, while we were still sinners, and not only us but as John says in 1 John 4 verse 14 that;

...we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

Savior of the world.

Now I know that the Calvinist always get their hackles up when you say that God loved the world, meaning the whole world, that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, meaning the whole world, and that He died for the world, meaning the whole world but that is what God's word says, God's love is so great that it is extended and meant for every and all sinful men of the world.

Personally, I think that the Calvinist have fallen into the trap of Satan to what Paul warns us about in 2 Corinthians 11 verse 3 where he says;

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Because when you study Calvinism, there is really nothing simple about it, they will say that you just don't understand, you need to be taught what the scriptures really say and mean... yah... that's the same thing the Catholic's have been saying to control the masses for centuries already.

I believe, as one who views the bible as the ultimate authority and truth, shows us God's love for the whole world, the whole realm of humanity, and that He so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, as Savior of the world.

That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life and He did this while we were still sinners, and paid for all the sins of all sinners.

Just as John says in 1 John chapter 4 verses 9 and 10;

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

See, this propitiation is that appeasing payment, that satisfactory atonement of sin before God by Jesus Christ, it is the payment for the penalty of our sin and paid in full by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Because we have all broken God's law, as sinners we are all guilty of sin, we are all charged with the penalty of sin, and since we have nothing to pay for our guilt, our sin, our only just judgment is hell. But God in His infinite love, has sent His Son to die in our place, and be that propitiation before God so that we may live.

And when one looks at the love that God has shown and has given to us in doing this, it is really indescribable. He didn't send His Son to the ones chosen from before the foundation of the world, He didn't just die for the elect of the world, no God so loved the world that He sent His Son, His only begotten Son as Savior of the world, so that anyone and everyone who repents and believes will have everlasting life.

And because of this love Paul says in Ephesians chapter 2 starting in verse 1 says;

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

You see this is one of the main aims of God's love, as I noted to you in the introduction, in the last message, that God's love always has eternity in mind. God's love is not some patch job for the circumstance for your life, it's not just some quick crutch to get you through the hard times, no, God's love is eternal at its core! And always has eternity in mind!

As it is with this entire list as we will see as we go through them. Listen the love that God has within Himself, and the love that has been displayed by giving His Son, and the love that He has been poured out on this world has one thing in mind, eternity!

God's love came to this earth in the form of Jesus Christ so that 'whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life', that is what the love of God wants to do in the lives of all men.

That is what God's love wants to achieve, that men would repent and believe the gospel, not only to save them from hell fire, but to save them from their sins and seek that relationship and fellowship with God that will last for all eternity.

As Paul writes to Titus chapter 3 starting in verse 2 saying;

For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

God's love always looks to the future and eternal state of man. God did not just make us one day and then after man sinned stumbled around trying to figure out what to do next. No, God was thinking of the forever all along. We aren't just created for some 30 second entertainment, like some snap chat creation for God. No, we were created, and redeemed and now heirs of God with eternity in mind, forever!

But not only does this love of God point us to salvation, to simply get us saved, but once we have been justified, become saved by grace through faith that comes for the love of God, He then begins to conform us to His Son in our sanctification. That as Christians we would begin to bear fruit, and one of those fruits is love, His love. As Jesus says in John chapter 15 part of verse 2 and 8;

...every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit;...

But then Jesus also says in Revelation 3:19;

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

And in Hebrews 12 verse 6;

For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

Now that may sound harsh and almost torturous but remember God only does this in light of your eternity, Proverbs 3 verse 11 and 12 says;

11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction;

12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.

This love of God, not to torment and torture you, but to cleanse you and conform you to His own Son and fit us for heaven and eternal life. Listen even Jesus said;

"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

And also speaking of the Christians He says;

"Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?"

35 "It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Are you allowing God to fit you for heaven, are you allowing the love of God to fit you for the fellowship you will have with Him and His Son for all eternity?

Because that is what His love is looking to do in you. The gift of salvation is for all men, the chastening, the scourging, the testing is for the Christian, and they all point man in the direction of eternity, to be in that eternal state with Him in that eternal kingdom forever.

Listen, turn with me to Mark chapter 10, a very good illustration to the love of God and the eternal purpose He has in mind for man.

Mark chapter 10 and I will start reading from verse 17;

Now as He (Jesus) was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"

18 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God."

19 "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"

20 And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Now go back to verse 17, what is the question the man asked Jesus?

...what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

I ask you, what was the main point of his question? Eternal life, eternity. What is the requirement or process to inherit eternal life is the basis of his question. And then in verse 18, listen, Jesus gives him a very deep theological response in the form of a question and answer that I think is often missed in the account, Jesus says ‘why do you call Me good?, No one is good buy One, that is, God.’

Listen to that statement, only God is good, God is all good, everything God does is good, and we will cover more of this in the message of goodness, but for now, from this phrase, the man should have grasped the idea that if he believed that Jesus was the good teacher from God, then what ever comes as His answer would be from God and that answer would be perfectly good.

Because in the next verse, verse 19 Jesus tells the man and says, "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" To which the man responds; "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."

And then we have the most powerful words of Jesus this man could every hear, it says 'Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him... loved him, Jesus loved him, not loved him as with the feeling, not loved him for keeping the law according to verse 19, but loved him in telling the man what he needed to hear. It is as Vine says that 'it was not 'a love' drawn out by any excellency in the object' of the man, but with the view of the man's eternal state in mind and the one thing that was keeping him from it.

Verse 21 says;

*Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him,
"One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have
and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven;
and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."*

Looking at him Jesus loved him, and told him the one thing he was lacking, one thing! The one thing that was keeping him from that eternal kingdom and eternal life, one thing that was keeping him bound to this earth and hell eternal! And Jesus looking at him, loved him and told him, in love, what he needed to hear,

*...Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up
the cross, and follow Me."*

Now we know this is not what the man ‘wanted to hear’ but was something the man ‘needed to hear’, it is the love of Jesus that had the man’s eternal state in mind, not just a temporary fix to his question in life right now, and not as some crutch to make him feel better to get through his struggle in this life. No, eternity was the question, and eternity that was the answer.

But what did the love of Jesus do to this man? Well, it says;

But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful,...

Sorrowful, listen this word sorrowful used in the verse is the same word used when Jesus told His disciples that one of them would betray Him, and they became exceedingly sorrowful, it is the same word that is used to describe Jesus as he went and prayed in the garden, and in Matthew 26:37 says;

*And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee,
and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.*

Listen it is the love of God that told this man what he needed to hear and directed him to that eternal life he was seeking. And yet this love of Jesus cut him to the heart so deep, that it scourged him, tore his heart apart in such a way that it not only made him sad, but went away sorrowful. Why... because as the rest of the verse says;

for he had great possessions.

And not only does it say he had great possessions, it implies he love his possessions, he probably had security from his possessions, he probably had and loved the empire he created with his possessions, and when the love of God came into his life and told him to sell all of his possessions, it scourged him, tore him to pieces on the inside!

It cut him so deep that as verse 22 says ‘he went away’, he walked away from God with sorrow! Listen, he walked away from the eternal life that he was pointed to, he walked away from the love of God.

This is why Oswald Chambers writes in his book ‘Our Brilliant Heritage’;

The curious thing about the love of God is that it is the cruellest thing on earth to everything that is no of Him. God hurts desperately when I am far away from Him; but when I am close to Him, He is unutterably tender.

EOQ

You see this man was no unbeliever, no, he says he kept the whole law, from his youth, and Jesus didn’t ever argue that. But Jesus showed him the one thing he lacked.

The love of GOD always has eternity in mind, whether it is in the saving grace he offers to the world, the whole world, or in the chastisement of the believer, it always points the person to his eternal future. In the account of the rich man after he had left;

...Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

Listen it is not only riches that keep men from that kingdom, but it can also be anything that we place ahead or above GOD, and when the love of God comes into our life and cut us to the heart it is our choice to yield to it or not. It is our choice to allow the love of God to cut away at us to conform us to His Son and prepare us for eternity, or... we can walk away from that love. this is the pruning Jesus is talking about, pruning out of love.

We have often heard that this agape *ag-ah'-pay* love, is the love that dose what is right, listen it's not what feels right, it does what is right and when God shows us His love, gives us His love, He does what is right in directing us to the way of heaven, in showing us the way to eternity. Out of love He gave us His Son so that we may have eternal life, and that even when we accept that gift of life, out of love He disciplines us, chastens us, scourges us to conform us to His Son and fits us for His eternal kingdom.

God's love is so powerful it has the power to change the hardest of hearts... if they let Him, it has the power to conform the vilest of sinners to the image of His Son... if they allow it. Listen this is why scripture says nothing can stop the love of God. Nothing in this world can stop the love of God and the plan He has for His creation.

Listen to Romans chapter 8 verse 35 it says;

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

And then in verses 37 and 39 Paul says;

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Very often you will hear these verses taken out of context in meaning that this verse refers to man's salvation and his security in Christ.

Listen in my opinion, this verse is not talking about salvation or your security, the words are not used in the passage. Paul is talking about the love of God, nothing in this world can stop the love God has given to man in salvation, nothing in this created world seen or unseen can stop the eternal plan that God the Father and Jesus His Son and the power of the Holy Spirit have made in redeeming mankind from his sin, nothing.

There is nothing in this world that can stop the love of God from chastising His children, in pointing them to Christ likeness, nothing in this world can stop the love or the plan God has for eternity.

The only thing you can do is walk away, walk away from the love of God from converting you, changing you, chastising you, in pointing you to eternity. Just like the rich man we looked at earlier, Jesus loved him, pointed him in the right direction, told him what he needed to hear in regard to his eternal state and life, but what did he do...

he went away, he walked away from the love of Jesus, it was there but he walked away.

It says nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. The salvation plan is complete, the image we are to be conforms to is set, nothing can stop it, nothing can take it away. The only thing is you can walk away from it, walk away from Gods love, from the love that points you to eternity, directs you to your eternal life, conforms you to the image of His Son fitting you for heaven.

It cannot be stopped or separated from you, but you can walk away from all of it if you choose.

I'm not of the once-saved-always-saved view, I think it is unbiblical.

As I mentioned before in the January newsletter from Compass International author Bill Perkins writes in an article 'Who Goes To Heaven' writes this;

Another verse proving you can't lose your salvation is in Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome:

And then he quotes Romans chapter 8 verses 38 and 39 the same verses we are looking at here and then says;

This means a human, who is a created being, cannot even choose to leave God! Salvation is a one-way street. You may break God's heart with your sin, but He is faithful to never leave you.

I always say a person doesn't 'lose their salvation' they walk away from it, but even Bill Perkins says, 'you cannot even choose to leave God', you have to choose to get in, but you can never choose to get out? Makes no sense what some people promote and believe.

But I ask you again, look at the verses, what is the context talking about... salvation, salvation as being a one-way street? Is it talking about once you accept salvation in Jesus you're locked in for life, for eternity? Not the way I read my bible.

The way I read my bible, Paul is talking about love, the love of God and what does it say about that love? It is the plan He and Jesus and the Holy Spirit have made in the redemption of man that can never be withheld from anyone who hears His word;

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Listen nothing in this world can take away the love God has shown the world. Nothing can stop what God has done in giving His only begotten Son, as the propitiation for the world. Listen to the verses when you think of them in that light when I read them again;

...I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What is the love of GOD... His plan for man in eternity and nothing can stop it.

Nothing can stop God's redemption plan of love, nothing can separate us from that love, from the plan God has for man, it is there for everyone. Not everyone has heard it, that is why we are to evangelize, but it is there for the whole world, for the salvation of souls, for whoever repents and believes in Him, and nothing can stop it. Nothing can alter what God has done for His creation in providing eternal salvation to sinful man and nothing can separate us from that love.

As Paul writes to Titus in chapter 3 verses 4 through 8 saying;

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

God's love always points us in the direction of eternity, points us to eternal life, and always does what is right in conforming us to His Son, fitting us for that eternal home in glory.

And when we understand that, we begin to understand a little of what the love of God is and does in us and in the world.

Just as John tells us in 1 John chapter 2 verse 5 saying;

But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

And also in 1 John chapter 4 verse 12;

No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

It is the love of God that is being perfected in me, and it becomes perfect in me when I allow it to change me, direct me, allow it to chastise me, conform me to the image of Christ. Allow that love of Jesus to cut into my sinful heart, just as He did to the rich man who walked away. And when it is perfected in us, the love of God in us moves us to move others to eternity as well.

Oswald chambers again writes;

Whenever a decline comes, whenever there is a tendency to turn aside, we will find God is a consuming fire: He will hold and hurt cruelly, and we may cry out to Him to let us go, but He will not let us go. God loves us too much to let us go, and He will burn and burn

until there is nothing left but the purity that is as pure as He is...

Men are apt to cry to God to stop—"If only God would leave me alone!" God never will.

His passionate, *inescapable* love never allows Him to leave men alone, and with His children He will shake everything that can be shaken till there is nothing that can be shaken anymore;

then will abide the consuming fire of God until the life is changed into the same image from glory to glory, and men see that strong family likeness to Jesus that can never be mistaken.

Oswald Chambers. The Complete Works of Oswald Chambers (p. 239). Kindle Edition.

Just as Hebrews 12 verse 6 and 7 read;

For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

And He does all of this out of love, with your eternity in mind. If it was without eternity in mind, then it would be cruelty.

And so in conclusion to this sub point number 1, we have only barely scratched the surface of God's love. God's love is immense, it is immeasurable, it is unfathomable to what His love all entails, but one thing I hope we have learned about God's love is that God's love always has eternity in mind, always seeks to save men from their sins, always points man to his eternal life with God, to eternity.

The love of God chastises us, scourges us, cut us to the heart in order to conform us to His Son, and fit us for the kingdom of God. And only the love of God can do this in man, and only if we allow Him, why else would James tell us to 'submit to God, and resist the devil'?

Because as free willed humans, God has given us the free will and power to resist God and continue submitting ourselves to the devil, just as the rich man with great possessions did, he resisted the love of God, of Jesus, and walked away, walked away from the love of God that would otherwise have lead him to victory, to the eternal life he was seeking, but not at the cost Jesus was telling him to pay.

It is this love of God, that is to mold us, move us, and conform us in all that we do to the image of His Son, and it is this love, this fruit of the Spirit that we are to have come out of us as well.

But that is the message for next time. And as Paul says at the close of his second letter to the Corinthians in chapter 13 verse 14;

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Amen.*