

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

LESSON 09 - LOVE

Text: Galatians 5:22-23

Introduction:

1. The great battle of our lives here upon Earth is between the flesh and the Spirit.
2. Ultimately, this is a conflict over who will reign and rule in our lives – man (the flesh) or God (the Spirit).
3. When we choose to walk after the Spirit, we will bear His fruit in our lives.
4. “The fruit of the Spirit is love.”

I. The Meaning of Love

- A. The Greek words for love...
 1. Eros – “the love between a husband and wife”
 2. Storge – “the love between parents and children; patriotism or devotion to another (cause, pet, etc.)”
 3. Phileo – “to be a friend; to be fond of; to have affection for” (John 15:19; 12:25)
 4. Agape – “brotherly love, affection; good will; to love in a social or moral sense” (John 15:13; 1 Corinthians 13)
- B. What love is not...
 1. Love is not merely a spoken word [or words] (1 John 3:18).
 - a. There is nothing wrong with speaking words of love.
 - b. In fact, we should do more of that.
 - c. But, words alone do not constitute true love.
 2. Love is not merely an emotion (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).
 - a. Clearly, emotions are involved in love (1 Peter 3:8; Romans 12:10).
 - b. But, emotions alone do not constitute true love.
 3. Love is not lust (Hebrews 13:4).
 - a. Many equate love with lust or sex.
 - b. However, true love will not violate God’s Word.
 4. Love is not license to sin (John 14:15, 21).
 - a. Many think that love eliminates law.
 - b. But, true love corrects (Proverbs 13:24; Hebrews 12:6).
- C. What love is...
 1. Love is seeking what is best for another.
 2. Love arises from a benevolent and compassionate attitude of the giver, not from the worthiness of the recipient.
 3. True love is an act of the will under the control of man (1 Cor. 13).

II. The Fruit of the Spirit Is Love

- A. Joy is love’s consciousness!
- B. Peace is love’s confidence!
- C. Longsuffering is love’s habit!
- D. Goodness is love’s quality!
- E. Faith is love’s manifestation!
- F. Meekness is love’s strength!
- G. Temperance is love’s victory!

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III. The Law of Love

- A. “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Galatians 5:14).
- B. James calls this the “Royal Law” – “If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well” (James 2:8).
- C. Not only is this the greatest commandment of God (Mark 12:28-31), but “against such there is no law!”
- D. “All those who do these works of God, find no law of God interfering with them in the exercise of their labors” (J. W. McGarvey).
- E. One who lives according to God’s Word and produces the fruit of the Spirit has no law that can be brought against him (cf. John 8:46; 14:30).
- F. This man is “free indeed!” (John 8:36; cf. Gen. 4:7)