

Abide Part 11: Abundant Fruit (11-18-2018)

This Series: Abide - Living in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit

3 Parts: Who is the Holy Spirit, Cultivating our relationship with Him, and then how He flows through us.

Introduction: today we are unpacking the specific list of fruit, but first . . .

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

(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.

- **It is called Fruit not Fruits**
 - The fruit is singular because . . .
 - Anyone can have one or even a few of these on their own (personality type, disposition)
- **The general Purpose of Fruit**
 - Looks good
 - Tastes good
 - Satisfies the hungry
 - Spreads the seed (so more is produced)

Today: Consider the fruit of the Spirit as something God is, something he invites me to enjoy, and something he wants me to share!

1) Love

The fruit of the Spirit is love: It is fitting that **love** be the first mentioned, because it encompasses all of the following. It may even be said that the following eight terms are just describing what **love** in action looks like.

Martin Luther: "It would have been enough to mention only the single fruit of love, for love embraces all the fruits of the Spirit."

Ephesians 3:14-19 (ESV)

(14) For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, (15) from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, (16) that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power **through his Spirit in your inner being**, (17) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, **being rooted and grounded in love**, (18) may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, (19) and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Notes: Can't learn this love in a class – it goes beyond knowledge, requires real experience.

Agape (Greek Word) (as opposed to other Greek words for love: romantic, brotherly, friendship, family love):

Love, affectionate regard, goodwill, benevolence. It is tied to action, is outward focused & sacrificial.

God's Love: It is God's willful direction toward man. It involves God doing what He knows is best for man and not necessarily what man desires.

For example, **John 3:16** states, "For God so loved the world, that he gave . . . "

What did God give? Not what man wanted, but what God knew man needed, i.e., His Son to bring forgiveness to man.

Key verses on Love:

- **Romans 5:8** – God showed his love, while we were still sinners Christ died for us
- **John 15:13** – Greater love has no one than this, to lay down his life for his friends
- **John 13:35** – Jesus disciples love one another
- **Romans 13:10** – Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love fulfills the law

Dallas Willard describes love as: "To will the good of others"

- **Matt 5:44** – Love your enemies

William Barclay: "It means unconquerable benevolence. It means that no matter what a man may do to us by way of insult or injury or humiliation we will never seek anything else but his highest good. It describes the deliberate effort - which we can make only with the help of God - never to seek anything but the best even for those who seek the worst for us."

My Story of loving my enemy:

- Choosing forgiveness
- Praying for him
- God changed my view over time

Conclusion: Loving like this requires utter dependence & help – that's the Fruit of the Spirit!