

Sermon Series Title: "The Fruit of the Spirit"

Sermon Series Summary: In Christ, we have received new hearts and new life. With this new life, God bears the Fruit of the Spirit. It's not something we do. It's something that God grows within us through His Spirit.

"We are in our "Fruit of the Spirit" sermon series, and through this series, we see that our growth is not quantified by the works we accomplish but is defined by the fruit God's Spirit bears within us through His Son."

Call: 2 Samuel 22:29

Text: Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Title: "The Fruit of Love"

Next Week's Call: 2 Samuel 22:30

Next Week's Text: Galatians 5:22-23, Romans 5:1-11

Next Week's Title: "The Fruit of Joy"

Future Calls: 2 Samuel 22:31, 32, 33, 47-49, 50-51

Future Titles: "Peace" (Galatians 5:22-23, John 14:25-27)

Fallen Condition Focus: We do not love as we should.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ loved us with this love and now empowers us to love.

Central Truth: God is love, and we are called to love as we have been loved in Christ.

Summary: We are back in our "Fruit of the Spirit" sermon series, looking at the first fruit: love. This is the most important fruit (as it describes who God is), and it's the fruit that bonds the others together. In 1 Corinthians 13, we see the importance, perseverance, and character of love for us in Christ.

Reflective Questions:

1. Why is the fruit of love first on this list?
2. Out of love's characteristics in 1 Corinthians 13, which one sticks out to you?
3. Why is it so difficult to love in this way?
4. How are we to love in this way?

## I. Introduction

- A. Hook- spirit-filled life in Acts, new creation through resurrection; spirit-filled life look like? It bears the fruit of the spirit.
- B. Transition- summary of first sermon- restorative, internal, gradual, outward, grace-centered, inevitable; looking at love as first fruit- most important, bonds other fruit together, who God is, Greatest commandment
- C. Central Truth
- D. Points

## II. The Poverty of Love - Corinthian Church

- A. Corinth the city
  - 1. 4 Ps (Irwyn Ince)- powerful, prosperous, pluralistic, promiscuous
  - 2. "Live like a Corinthian is to live in immorality."
  - 3. Crossroad for trade and ideas
- B. Divided church (following certain people)
- C. Valued wisdom, eloquence, the spiritual gifts of tongue and prophecy (higher knowledge)
- D. Hated their church members that people were having private communion sessions to not partake together
- E. Sexual immorality in the church
- F. Spiritual gifts and body of Christ in ch. 12, focus on spiritual gifts again in ch. 14 with worship... ch. 13 bonds these two together- love
- G. V. 31b- "And I will show you a still more excellent way."

## III. The Necessity of Love (vv. 1-3)

- A. Tongues and prophecies were highly esteemed in the Corinthian church.
- B. Speak in the tongues of men (other languages) and angels (angelic language- closer to God) but no love- noisy gong or clanging cymbal (excessive and intrusive; allusions to pagan worship).
- C. Prophetic powers, understand all mysteries and all knowledge (higher knowledge), faith to move mountains (incredible faith), but have not love, I am nothing.
- D. Give away all I have (extreme generosity) and martyrdom (one of greatest sacrifices of faith), I gain nothing.
- E. Gifts, knowledge, faith, acts, surrender do not supercede love.

## IV. The Eternity of Love (vv. 8-13)

- A. Love never ends.
- B. Prophecies and tongues will pass away.

- C. We are in the partial and immature state of salvation. One day, we will be complete and mature.
  - 1. It's like the difference between dim mirror and seeing face to face.
  - 2. We will have a full knowledge of God.
- D. Faith, hope, and love are all important, but the greatest of these is love.
  - 1. Even faith and hope will be fulfilled in the resurrection. Faith will turn into sight. Hope will turn into reality. And love will still remain.
- V. The Ability to Love (vv. 4-7)
  - A. Love is patient (long-suffering) and kind (God's heart)- passive and active
  - B. Love does not envy or boast- not jealous or trying to make others jealous
  - C. Not arrogant or rude
  - D. Selfless and not irritable or resentful- does not keep a record of wrongs
  - E. Does not wish harm for enemy but rejoices with truth
  - F. Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things
  - G. Love is personified, because this is the heart of God.
  - H. This list describes the person of Jesus Christ.
  - I. We are able to love in this way, because God has loved us in this way through Jesus.