

“What is Love?”
Sermon Reflection Questions July 11, 2010
Gal 5:16-26, 1 Cor. 13:1-8, Fruit of the Spirit

We finish up the summer by look at the fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23. Notice I said “fruit” of the Spirit not “fruits” of the Spirit. Although it is a subtle distinction the idea is that all of the characteristics that are mentioned should be produced in our lives if we are living by the Spirit of God. There will certainly be characteristics that are stronger than others. However as we walk by the Spirit of God all of these characteristics will be developed. It is not that you will produce joy, but not peace, or patience but not self–control.

This first Sunday we talk about love. Love is one of those words that we toss around with great frequency but the definitions that each of us have of love are different. So along with gaining a unified understanding of love we also today want to be motivated to live with the type of love that Jesus desires.

1. Regarding you own perception of love:
 - a. How has your definition of love changed over your lifetime?
 - b. Have you ever told someone you loved them without having a true definition of love?
 - c. Where have you seen the greatest example of love?
2. In 1 Corinthians 13:2-3 Paul says thing like “if I have faith to move mountains don’t have love then I am nothing, or if I speak in tongues or prophecies and has no love he is like a clanging symbol or resounding gong”
 - a. What does Paul mean by this?
 - b. In your own words what would be the application of this point to our own lives?
 - c. Have you seen an illustration of this point from your own experience?
3. Read the rest of 1 Corinthians 13:1-8.
 - a. How does Paul describe love?
 - b. How is Paul’s definition of love different than the culture’s definition of love?

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c. What qualities of love that are described in 1 Corinthians 13 are you stronger in and which are you weaker in?

d. How do you see Jesus living out the definition of love as described in 1 Corinthians 13? (Read also Romans 5:8, John 15:12-13)

4. The kind of love that is described by Paul and modeled by Jesus is different than the type of love that would come naturally to us. How can we allow the spirit to produce this type of love in us?

5. How/Where in your life do you need to manifest the qualities of love to a greater extent?