

Sunday Equipping



Table Discussion

Introductions

- As a table: Introduce yourself and answer the question, "What is your most vivid spring break memory, as a child or an adult?
- As a table: How would you explain what it means to walk in the spirit of anything? (spirit of joy, victory, fear, anger, etc.)



Walking by the Spirit The Fruit of the Spirit





Review



We are "in Christ"

- 1. Christ is our representative
- 2. Christ "covers us"
- 3. It is forensic (judicial)
- 4. 2 Cor 5:21
- 5. Romans 5:12-21

Christ is "in us"

- 1. Harder to explain
- 2. We have a new nature
- 3. We have new power
- 4. 1 John 4:4
- 5. Ephesians 3:14-21; 4:13-16

Review



Union with Christ is not an idea to be understood, but a new reality to be lived, through faith.

- Rankin Wilbourne

It is therefore faith alone which justifies, and yet the faith which justifies is not alone.

- John Calvin

Schedule



April 7, 2024 - Intro to the Fruit of the Spirit - Love

April 14, 2024 - Fruit of the Spirit – Joy and Peace

April 21, 2024 - Fruit of the Spirit – Patience and Self-Control

April 28, 2024 - Fruit of the Spirit – Kindness and Goodness

May 5, 2024 - Fruit of the Spirit – Faithfulness and Gentleness

Galatians 5:13-15

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

Galatians 5:16-21

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, ^[d] drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do^[e] such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:22-26

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. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Discussion

Galatians 5:13-26

- As a table: What jumps out at you from this passage?
- As a table: What does Paul say are the two "natures" at work in every Christian?
- As a table: What strikes you about how Paul describes the Spirit's work in the life of a Christian?



WSC Question 35: What is **sanctification**?

Answer 35: Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness. (see 2 Thess 2:13, Eph 4:23-24, Rom 6:4, 6; 8:1)



The Process of change by the Spirit

1. Cultivation rather than toilsome work

'Work' involves labor, and yet yields no benefit. 'Fruit-bearing' requires cultivation, but the fruit itself comes from a growth-process which is not directly the result of labor.

- John Sanderson

2. Counterfeits to be aware of (weeds)



The Nature of the fruit of Spirit

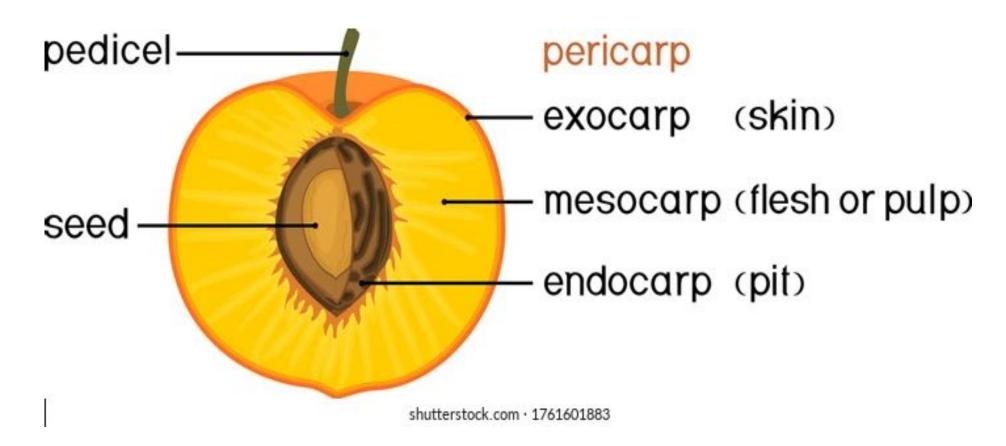
1. One fruit – different than gifts of the Spirit

Spiritual gifts are capacities given to individual believers to express and communicate the knowledge and power of Christ for the edifying of the church.

- J.I. Packer



The Anatomy of a Peach





The Nature of the fruit of Spirit

1. One fruit

2. Interdependent with one another

3. Growth in grace measured by the least of these



Love

1. It is an action

Love is not essentially a feeling of affection but a way of behaving, and if it starts as a feeling, it must become more than a feeling if it is truly to be love. Love does something; it gives; that is how it established its identity.

- J.I. Packer

- 2. It serves God
- 3. It serves others for their intrinsic good

Discussion

Looking at 1 John 4:7-12

- As a table: If love defines who God is, and love is the seed of the fruit of the Spirit how does that change the way I should live?
- As a table: How does counterfeit love show up in your life?
- As a table: How does knowing love is the fruit of the Spirit give you hope?

Application



- 1. The love of God actually dwells in you, be encouraged.
- The love of God makes Christians different in a culture of anger and counterfeit loves.
- 3. What, or who, is the love of God calling you to move towards this week?