



The Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 1: Introduction to the Fruit of the Spirit & the Fruit of Love

Introduction

1. Sons of God

Romans 8:19

The word “sons” emphasizes the relationship of an offspring to its parent, especially the expression of the character or nature of that parent.

This implies that the sons of God will be recognized by the _____

It is not simply those who have been born again that will be recognized as the sons of God, but those who demonstrate the very nature and character of their heavenly Father.

2. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit?

Romans 8:14

One indication that Christians are “sons of God” is that they are led by the Spirit of God.

Being led by the Spirit is not only being obedient to His voice, but also developing His character.

It is possible to obey God but have a wrong attitude.

3. Being led by the Spirit means that you are fulfilling the will of God in the character of Jesus.

Romans 8:29

God’s will is that His adopted sons be conformed to the image of His only begotten Son.

When this happens it will be evident to the world that we are truly sons of God!

Developing the character of Jesus is accomplished by developing the same fruit that was evident in His life.

4. You will know them by their fruits.

Matthew 7:15-20

It is by outward manifestations (fruit) that the inward nature (character) is recognized.

The world will recognize us _____

Jesus did not say:

- You will know them by their miracles.
- You will know them by the number of verses they can quote.
- You will know them by how many hours they spend in prayer.

Jesus said, “You will recognize My disciples by their character.”

John 13:35

5. The fruit of the spirit

Galatians 5:22, 23

This is the main text that lists the fruit of the Spirit.

There are nine fruit, or character traits, that need to be cultivated in the life of every believer.

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Longsuffering
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness

- Self-Control

6. Fruit and gifts

Spiritual fruit is different from spiritual gifts.

Gifts are _____ . Fruit is _____ .

In this course we are going to study each of the nine fruits of the spirit and look at how we can cultivate them in our lives.

Definition of CULTIVATE:

- _____
- Prepare
- Loosen or dig soil
- _____
- Nurture and foster

7. Fruit takes time and effort.

Mark 4:28, 29

8. They are not fruit of the Holy Spirit.

The nine fruits listed in Galatians 5 are not the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

They are the fruits of your _____ that has been made new by Christ.

The moment you were born again, you received these fruits. However, they have to be cultivated.

It is up to the individual believer to cause the fruit to grow and mature.

All fruit begins as a seed. It grows, over time, into mature fruit.

1 Peter 1:23

When you were born again, God sowed His Word and His Spirit into your heart like a seed.

Apple seed grows into apples. Orange seed produces oranges. The seed of God's Word and His Spirit produces God.

In other words, as the seed is matured, you should be more and more like Jesus.

The Fruit of Love

1. We must cultivate our love relationship with God first.

Matthew 22:37-39

A believer can love another person _____

We have many relationships throughout life in which we love someone. God's desire is that your relationship with Him be the primary relationship in your life.

He desires for you to express your love to Him and have an intimate relationship with Him.

2. Agape love

The love spoken about in our list of the fruit of the spirit is the Greek word "agape".

Definition of AGAPE: _____

Agape love occurs when an individual sees, recognizes, understands, or appreciates the value of an object or a person, causing the viewer to hold this object or person in great esteem, awe, admiration, wonder, and sincere appreciation.

This love is so strong it is irresistible.

The word "agape" is used in John 3:16.

John 3:16

Agape love caused God to take action. It is a self-sacrificing love that causes the lover to move into action.

Agape love has _____

Agape love has no strings attached. It is never looking for what it can "get", but always what it can "give".

When you walk in agape love it is impossible to feel hurt or let down because your motives are never selfish.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

3. The benefits of developing our love for God

- _____

1 Corinthians 13:8

Definition of FAILS: _____

When we decide to love God and love others we will never get off course.

- Love enables us to be victorious over trials.

Romans 8:28

The condition for all things working together for good is that we love God.

When you cultivate your love for God, you will conquer circumstances in your life.

There is a direct relationship between the degree to which a believer conquers all things and the degree of development in his relationship with God.

Everything in your life flows from your relationship with God.

4. How do you cultivate the fruit of love?

- You can cultivate the fruit of love in your life by sharpening your vision of the Father.

Ephesians 5:1, 2

We are to be imitators of God and walk in love, just like Jesus walked in love toward us.

If we are to imitate the love walk of Jesus, we must know how He did it.

What was Jesus' secret? What enabled Him to walk in love?

John 5:17-19

Many of us are trying to act like the Son, _____

When we develop our relationship with the Father we will be able to walk in love like Jesus did.

1 John 4:7, 8

Only when we know God, will we be able to love one another.

- You can cultivate the fruit of love in your life by _____

1 John 4:12

God's love is perfected in us when we _____

Definition of PERFECTED:

- _____
- Ripe
- _____

We "ripen" the fruit of love by loving others.

The main hindrance to showing love to another person is to wait for a feeling prior to some action that you would take to express love.

Love is not a feeling.

1 John 3:18