

# THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – LOVE

Junior High Lesson July 12th



## Click on Video Link

**Main Point:** God has given us the Holy Spirit to lead us to Jesus and help us live the Christian life becoming more like Him. The fruit of "love" is one of the most, if not the most, important fruit of the Holy Spirit. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13, "Without love I am nothing!" As we sing the world will know we are Christians by our LOVE!

**Overview:** The fruit of the Spirit leads us to be more loving, kind, patient, forgiving, etc. The problem is that we're not designed to live that way in our own power. It's only when we stay connected to Jesus that those characteristics flow out of our lives. The fruit of love is the opposite of feelings of hate and bitterness, which affect so many people. Love is looking for the best in others. Love helps us to love people even when we don't feel like it. Jesus showed us what true love looks like when he willingly gave up his life for us though he was innocent and did nothing wrong. In 1 John 4 the beloved disciple says this,

*"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."*

That's right when we love others the way God loves us the world sees who God is! The greatest factor in leading people to Christ is loving them unconditionally like God loves us!

**How does it make you feel to know God loves you unconditionally? How does it make you feel when you love someone else in the same way God loves you? Who is one person you think you need to show God's love to this week?**

**Other verses about God's love:** *"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."* **1 John 4:18**

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."* **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

As I started growing in my Christian faith after college, I began to understand God's sacrificial love in greater depth. It was about that time when God brought Drew into my life. Drew was different than any other friends I had ever had. Drew was socially awkward and had a really rough upbringing. I felt like God was saying to me, "I want you to be a true friend to Drew." Soon after that Drew tried to commit suicide by drinking some very toxic fluids. I was able to be by him at his hospital bed to pray with him. It was very meaningful for him and for me. I am glad God brought Drew into my life to teach me how to "truly" love people the way Jesus loves us.

A lot of people think love is all about feelings. In movies, songs and on the internet, love is all about "falling in love" with someone. While there is nothing wrong with good feelings, especially toward someone of the opposite sex, God love is deeper than this. God's love is about making a choice to love someone even when you don't feel like it. The bible calls that "agape" love which is the Greek word for unconditional, sacrificial love. This is the same love Jesus had for us when he willingly went to be crucified on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus was a man with free will, so he could have chosen not to suffer and die for us. But when Jesus went to the cross he said to each of us, "I love you and will do anything it takes you to save you from your sin."

When I in high school, I played sports and there were some guys on the team who were part of the "Fellowship of Christian Athletes". I know FCA is still active on the high school campuses in Irvine today. It was at FCA where someone spoke about God's unconditional love and what Jesus did for me. One of the leaders who I looked up asked me if I had ever accepted Jesus as my Savior. I had grown up in church and was baptized as a Christian, but this was a time in my life where I accepted Jesus' love for me in a more personal way and it changed my life forever! In Confirmation we invite all of the students (and parents) to learn more about God's love for you. This is what the Christian faith is all about. When we know how much God truly loves us, we can truly love others the way he loved us. And this is what the world needs now!

## MAIN POINT

**The Holy Spirit gives us the spiritual gift of "love" so we can love others with the same love Jesus had for us. Jesus showed us his unconditional love by dying for us!**

**Share your highs and lows from this past week. Close in pray for each other giving God thanks for your highs and asking God to be with you in your lows.**

### **Discussion Questions With Your Family:**

**Parents:** Talk about how you experienced God's love growing up? What was it like when you began to discover God's love for you? How did it change you?

**Students:** How do you experience God's love for you? How can knowing God loves you unconditionally help you at this stage of your life as you begin another year of Junior High/Middle School in the Fall?

**Family:** Who are some people in your neighborhood or extended family or friends who need to see God's love shown to them? Make a plan to do that in a practical way this week!

## **Join us Wednesday @ 7pm on Zoom**

### **BIBLE STUDY, GAMES AND FRIENDS**

**Click Here To Join the Meeting?**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9829170570>



**WE ARE HERE FOR YOU**

**Pastor Mike (818)-693-0974**