



Have Some Fruit—Love
Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:12-14
Acts 2:1-12; Matthew 5:43-48

October 16, 2022

DAILY DEVOTION

Find a rhythm in God's word this week! Follow this 3 day plan on your own or with your group!

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/32903-the-fruit-of-the-spirit-love>

INSPIRATION

“Perhaps second-hand cares, like second-hand clothes, come easily off and on.”

—Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

—Colossians 3:12

We have all encountered “dress codes,” whether in school, at our offices and places of work, or because our spouse does not let us wear the same shirt five days in a row. What is the purpose of a dress code? Do you have a spiritual “dress code”?

ICE BREAKER

1. Charles Dickens, as usual, captures his point set forth above with an image we can grasp and remember. Do you clothe yourself in love, or are your spiritual clothes often second-hand?
 2. Based on Colossians 3:12-14, what virtues are we supposed to clothe ourselves in, and which virtue is the most important?
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DEEP DIVE



Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

“Now before we do too much of a deep dive into this passage, let me say this.

First, it is fruit of the Spirit, not fruits. You can’t pick and choose. You get them all. All are important, and all are needed if we are going to look like Jesus. You can’t just say, “I don’t want any patience.” “I don’t want any goodness.” “I don’t want any peace.” No, it is the fruit of the Spirit, and all these things are packaged together. And it will take supernatural power for you to do this.

You know this because you have tried to be more loving, you for sure have tried to be more patient. It just doesn’t last, right? And you want to have more self-control, but you just don’t do it very well. And you throw up your arms and say to yourself and to others, “Well, this is just who I am—deal with it.”

The Holy Spirit is needed if I am going to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus.”

Read Galatians 5:22-23 and the verses noted below then answer the following questions:

3. As we embark on a lesson series addressing the fruit of the Spirit, it is important to recognize that Galatians 5:22-23 uses the term “fruit” of the Spirit, not the plural “fruits.” How do you think the elements of the fruit of the Spirit work together and produce a well-equipped Christian?
4. It is also important to recognize this fruit is “of the Spirit.” Can we develop the characteristics described in Galatians 5:22-23 by ourselves? Explain.
5. Based on the verses below, explain the Holy Spirit’s important work in the life of Jesus:
 - John 1:32-33
 - Isaiah 11:1-3
 - Luke 4:16-21
 - Acts 2:32-33

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

“And you will receive the gift... You see when we give ourselves to God, he gives himself to us. Jesus brings in a new age, the age of the Spirit. And to be a follower of Jesus is to be open to the same Spirit.”

Read Acts 2:1-12 and Matthew 5:43-48 and then answer the following questions:

6. Based on Acts 2:1-12, explain how the Holy Spirit empowers and unites Christians. How is “the blowing of a violent wind,” which is certainly felt but not seen, like the work of the Holy Spirit?



7. The command to love our enemies in Matthew 5:43-48 is given with an explanation. Why should we love our enemies?

Additional Study

If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about the message topic, read and consider the following passages:

- 1 Corinthians 3:12-14
- Mark 12:30-31

NEXT STEPS

8. On a scale of 1-10, with "10" being clothed in love and "1" being second-hand cares that come easily off and on, where would you place yourself on the scale? How would your life be different if you were clothed in love at work and as you encounter friends, family, co-workers and neighbors? What concrete steps can you take to adopt this spiritual dress code?
9. List some of the many issues that create divisions, and even hatred, in our culture, neighborhoods, places of work, families and world. How can you show love to those you disagree with, even on issues critically important to you? Explain how showing love is different from conceding your beliefs or positions.

PRAYER

1. Lord, grant me a heart of love.
2. It is very difficult to show love, in active and tangible ways, to those we vehemently disagree with. We can't do it without the Holy Spirit. Lord, please give me an open heart for the work of the Spirit in my life.

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

- BENSON - Serve with us at ABIDE every 2nd Saturday.
- MILLARD - Serve with us at Heartland Hope every 4th Saturday.
- FREMONT - Serve with us at LifeHouse every 3rd Saturday.
- OMAHA - Serve with us at Open Door Mission every 4th Saturday.
- Or get to know your community, are there any needs/volunteer opportunities?