

Woodland Baptist Church
Morning Worship - October 7, 2012
Galatians 5:16-26 Fruit of the Spirit, Part 1

1. Galatians 5:16-26

- a. The FLESH and the SPIRIT are at WAR with one another
- b. EVIDENCE of WALKING in the flesh
- c. EVIDENCE of WALKING in the Spirit
- d. **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.**

2. Fruit of the Spirit is _____.

- a. **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control...**
- b. Scholarship sees three categories here:
 - i. Dispositions of the mind - love, joy, peace
 - ii. Qualities affecting human relationships - patience, kindness, goodness
 - iii. Principles that guide conduct - faithfulness, gentleness and self control
- c. This morning we will expound on _____ LOVE
 - i. "It has often been said that love is the circulatory system of the body of Christ." **Warren Wiersbe**

3. Remember what Paul said already in his letter to the Galatians:

- a. **Galatians 5:6** - 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only *faith working through love*.
- b. **Galatians 5:13** - 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*.
- c. **Galatians 5:14** - 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall *love your neighbor as yourself*."

4. Four Greek forms of love in Scripture - filia, eros, agape, storge

- a. **filia, storge** - warm, intimate friendship, brotherly love, family love
- b. **eros** - physical love between sexes.
- c. **agape** - self sacrificial love exemplified by Christ on the cross.

5. The Most Excellent Way - 1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13

- a. Why are we jumping to 1 Corinthians from Galatians?

- i. We need to interpret scripture with _____. So, in order to fully understand what Paul is saying about love (agape), we need to cross reference his other uses of the word. In this case, 1 Corinthians is the place where agape love is the most thoroughly defined by Paul as he pleads with the Corinthians to stop quarreling and competing for supremacy in the church.

b. 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

i. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

- a) There is no evidence that Paul meant anything else but simply languages. [Constable, DTS]
- b) The greatest truths spoken in the greatest way fall short if they are not spoken in love. [MacArthur]
- c) The Corinthians made much noise, but sense...they reflected more of a pagan cult than true Christianity.

ii. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

- a) Prophetic powers - the ability to speak for God on matters pertaining to God and the Scriptures (predictive and non-predictive)
- b) Understand all mysteries, knowledge - as Paul spoke of the one flesh _____ as the mystery of the church; as the prophets in the old testament predicted the coming Messiah; as Agabus in the book of Acts predicted the great worldly famine.
- c) Possess mountain moving faith - faith as Jesus spoke of Mark 11:23 - 23 Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.

iii. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

- a) Give away all I have - even if the Rich Young Ruler of Luke 18:22-23, had sold everything and given it to the poor, as Christ commanded, if he did it for the wrong _____, he would gain nothing.
- b) Deliver up my body to be burned - even if we sacrifice our own body to death, literally give our lives for something, if we do not have love...we gain nothing.
 - i. Sacrifice is _____ without sincere sacrificial love.

c. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.