

The Fruit of Love: Ripe or Rotten

4/1/2007

Over the last 5 weeks we've been looking into the core command of Gods word.

-Love the Lord and love one another-

We've seen that these two commands are inseparable-

- Like the bars of the cross
- “You can't love God who you can't see if you don't love people who you can see.”
- We looked at the parable of Jesus of the sheep and goats and how God directly associates our love for others with our love for Him.
 - Remember how both the sheep and goats were oblivious to the connection of loving God with loving others.
 - But the goat's oblivion was deadly – they were oblivious to the needs of others.
- Totally into themselves.
 - So we came to the conclusion that the great enemy of love is selfishness.

Last week we looked into John 15.

Jesus tells us:

- That without Him we can do nothing
- Therefore we must ABIDE in Him – live out of Him
- Because He has called us to bear much fruit = love
- That fruit is our love for others.
- That proves we are his friends
- So the great commandment is, “love one another as I have loved you”!
- *John 15:12,17*

God really loves people - to the extent we do we are like Him, sons of God.

We have His nature – God is love!

In *John 15*, Jesus uses the illustrate of fruit for good reason

- Fruit comes from the nature of the tree
- Fruit is what the tree uses to multiply – It has a seed
- Jesus is in the fruit.
- Fruit is demonstration on outside of what's “inside” the tree; “on” the tree
- Without fruit don't know if it's a nut tree. We've got enough nuts- we need fruit.
- It's not hidden-its out there

- Fruit is for others
 - ↳ No tree eats its own fruit
- It's not "our" fruit, it's the fruit of the Holy Spirit
- I don't have love, joy, and peace in my heart for me – my love, joy and peace is "out there" for others to enjoy.
- IMPT – People come to the tree for its fruit!
 - ↳ People will come to Jesus the tree if we are bearing fruit.
 - ↳ People need to taste and see that God is good!
- *Psalm 34:8*

Jesus wants us to bear much fruit

- *John 15:8*
- **Why:** because there are so many people dying for God's love and God loves people.

So how can I produce more fruit/more love for others?

One of the most important ways is get healed of bruises for others

- Ripe fruit is very attractive
- Its colorful
- Fragrance of life
- People are attracted to beautiful fruit. They're hungry.
- But if your bruised people will stay away
 - ↳ They won't bring you home or let you into their life.
 - ↳ Look ugly/angry/depressed/stressed
 - ↳ Smell bad-attitudes reek
 - ↳ Even hungry people won't eat bruised fruit
 - ↳ What a rotten person! /What a rotten attitude!
- If you got hit on outside and if its not healed it goes to the inside and rots the fruit
 - ↳ Can't stay bruised long – even overnight becomes rotten
- People who eat rotten fruit get sick
- Your love becomes demanding
 - ↳ Patience – Anger
 - ↳ Joy – Depression

That's why all fruit has protective covering.

To take the shots- the rejection, disrespect, accusations, persecution, abuse

What we must do

- *Ephesians 6:10-11*

IMPT: We must Hate the devil but Love people

Hate sin and Love sinners

We're not to protect ourselves from people who need our fruit.
We're tough against the enemy and his attacks but tender toward people.

- *Ephesians 4:22-27*

How do we keep our Heart/Fruit from getting rotten?

- *Colossians 3:12-14*

If we're not healed

- They'll stay away from us (we're ugly)
- We'll stay away from them (They'll hurt me)

We must be Secure/ABIDING in Gods love
We must give ourselves to others freely.

Remember Jesus said

- *John 15:5*

We can't be afraid of what they're going to do to us.

It's our joy to give them love then they:

- Peel us
- Bite into us
- Squeeze us for all we got

If I'm so ABIDING in Gods love that I'm like Jesus:

- I'm willing to be wounded so someone else will live

Remember He was bruised for us- AND THEM!

- *Isaiah 54:5 (KJV)*
- His bruises brings healing

We are healed of others bruises, so the love of God showed us by giving His son to us
Heals them.

We in Christ/ Christ in us/ Christ through us to others
"Love one another as I have loved you!"

We are as sons of God

Living demonstration of Christ's Love:

- Willing to be bruised
- Never get rotten
- Giving love in return

Saving lost lives with Christ's love

- Steps to peace with God