



Bearing Fruit: “Love”

Galatians 5:22-23, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:13-14, You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

1 John 4:7-12, Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

1. In what ways have you seen advancements in technology lead to greater opportunities to love others? In what ways have you seen this lead to greater self-love?
2. Read Galatians 5:13-14. In what ways can self-love or legalism bring about a sense of bondage? How does a spirit-filled life set us free to love others?
3. Read 1 John 4:7-12. God has not only commands us to love but demonstrated self-giving love to us through his son. Can you think of any times where remembering Jesus’ example and sacrifice has empowered you to love others in a self-sacrificial way?
4. John tells us that the primary way that God has chosen to manifest himself to our world is through the love that Christians show to others. How have you experienced the love of God through the love of others? How has this encouraged your own faith and capacity to love?