

The Fruit of the Spirit: Love

Various texts

What is Love?

- In Greek there are 4 types of love:
 - Eros: The attraction between a man and woman
 - Storge: The tender care of a parent toward their child
 - Philos: The affection held between friends
 - Agape: The unconditional choice to put the needs of others before one's own desires
 - This is the type of love that the Holy Spirit produces in us because this reflects the very person of God (1 John 4:7-8)

God is Love

- God alone can fully embody love
- Because He is Trinitarian:
 - He is in His essence relational
- It is a relationship of mutual glorification
 - Glorify: to defer to and to serve
 - See John 8:54; 14:13; 16:13-15; 17:1
- Jesus exemplifies this selfless love for us through His incarnation, life, death, & resurrection (1 John 4:9-10)

His Love in Us

- It is through the Spirit of Jesus at work in us that we can love one another (1 John 4:11-14)
- This is not simply us living out the example of Jesus' love
 - But His actual love alive in us through His Spirit in us
 - His continual act of love for us is evident by His Spirit's presence with us (1 John 4:19)

Spirit-Empowered Love

- The Holy Spirit produces love in us when we find our fulfillment in God
 - This allows us to stop being self-seeking because God gives us what we need
 - And allows us to be sacrificial
- Thus, love is first aspect of the Spirit's fruit in us because it shapes and forms the rest
 - Without love we cannot experience true joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control
 - Because we will be seeking our good and not that of others (1 Cor. 13:4-7)

So What?

- Do we know Who love is?
- Are we letting Him love others through us?
 - By being fulfilled in Him?
 - By seeking the good of others over ourselves?

Meditation Verse: 1 John 4:19