

“The Fruit of the Spirit is Love...”

Gal. 5:16-25

Introduction

- I. Paul took the time to contrast the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit.
- II. Christians should strive to avoid the works of flesh while making sure they incorporate the fruit of the Spirit (cf. “Christian Graces” 2 Pet. 1:5-8).
- III. Let us take a closer look at the first thing listed by Paul that is included in the fruit of the Spirit, love (1 John 4:8; 1 Cor. 13:13)

Discussion

- I. How is love depicted in the Bible?
 - A. Greek “love” is defined by four terms
 1. Eros-marital/sexual love
 2. Phileo-brotherly love/close friendship
 3. Storge-familial love
 4. Agape-selfless love/seekes others betterment
 - B. Agape is the word used in Galatians 5:22.
 1. This is the same word used in First Corinthians 13.
 2. Likewise, it is the word used in Matthew 5:43-48.
 3. Barclay claimed, “Agape has to do with the mind: it is not simply an emotion which rise unbidden in our hearts; it is a principle by which we deliberately live. Agape has supremely to do with the will.”
 4. Agape is not an uncontrolled/impulsive love.
 5. God's love for mankind (2 Cor. 13:11; Rom. 5:8; 8:35-39; Eph. 2:4-7).
 6. Jesus perfectly demonstrated agape (John 15:13; 1 John 3:16).
- II. How can Christians incorporate agape?
 - A. Our manner of life (Eph. 5:1-2).
 - B. Motivation for actions (1 Cor 16:14).
 - C. Use to bind us together (Col. 3:12-14).
 - D. Keeps us from selfishness (Gal. 5:13).
 - E. Allows for sound preaching (Eph. 4:15).
- III. How do we present agape?
 - A. To God (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 14; 1 John 4:20-21).
 - B. To other Christians (1 John 3:11-12; 1 Pet. 4:8-9; 1 John 5:2).
 - C. To non Christians (Luke 6:27-36).
 - Cl.

Conclusion

- I. The fruit of the Spirit is love, and there is always room to improve (1 Thess. 3:12).
- II. Let us make sure that we can be identified by our love (John 13:35).