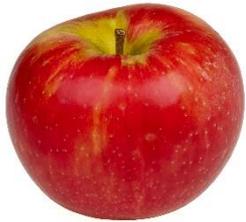




# The Fruit of the Spirit

Introduction/Love





# Works of the Flesh Vs. Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:19-23



# Why *Works* Vs. *Fruit*?

- ***Works*** is used because following the desires of the flesh produces sinful *deeds* that are purely human and fleshly in origin, resulting from our choices – Rom. 13:12-14; 6:23
- ***Fruit*** is used of these godly dispositions of heart because they are only produced in conjunction with the *work of the Spirit*.
  - We owe their existence in our lives to God
  - Yet, we must choose to follow the Spirit to have these grow in our lives – 2 Pet. 1:5-9



# How do we follow the Spirit?

- To follow the Spirit is to accept the Spirit's work of revealing the truth through the apostles.
  - Without this work of the Spirit we would not know what fruit God expects us to grow in our life – 1 Cor. 2:7, 12-13
  - The word revealed by the Spirit directs our lives toward proper service to God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- Thus, as is true of Christ, we must abide in the teaching of the Spirit to have these fruits – Jn. 15:4



# Why *Fruit* instead of *Fruits*?

- The singular word stands out.
- Maybe it is just a collective noun.
- Yet, I am inclined to believe this fruit, which includes all these attitudes/dispositions, are to be seen as a unit.
  - This is not like the *gifts* of the Spirit – 1 Cor. 12:7-8
  - Instead, every Christian is called upon to develop *all* of these characteristics fully in their lives or be found deficient.



Love

The fruit of the Spirit



# Defined

- Love – Agape...a somewhat uniquely Christian love.
- An intellectual love of choice, not based on the attraction of the object, but one that *seeks the welfare* of all, despite how the object may cause us to feel
- An active good-will toward one's fellowman, appreciating the innate value of others, even one's enemies, and acts accordingly



# Characteristics

- Holy and sacred, coming from and exemplified by God – 1 Jn. 4:7, 10; Jn. 13:34-34
- Selfless – Mt. 5:44-46; Phil. 2:2-3
- Sacrificial – Jn. 3:16; Rm. 5:8; Jn. 15:13
- Forgiving – 1 Pet. 4:8
- Obedient – Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:3, 2
- Proven in action – 1 Jn. 3:17-18



# Importance

- Without it, all others aspects of the Christian life are meaningless – 1 Cor. 13:1-3
- It is a required response for all who have purified their souls in obeying the truth – 1 Pet. 1:22
- Without it we cannot know God – 1 Jn. 4:8
- Only through this love can God abide in us and we in God – 1 Jn. 4:12, 16