

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## *The Fruit of Love*

**Galatians 5:22-23**, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith/fulness, gentleness, self-control.

- **The fruit of the Spirit is Love**
- The fruit is **always love** & is never **not** love

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The other fruit of the Spirit **only exist** in God's Love, **as** God's love

- The fruit is **OF** God
- If they're not expressing **His love**, they are not **His fruit**

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Keeping our questions from last week;

- Who **do** you love?
- Who **don't** you love?
- Who **will** you love?
- **How** will you love them?

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Love doesn't exist without someone **being loved**

- The primary purpose of love is not that we are loving
- But that someone is **being loved** by us; you & me
- It can be both bitter & sweet

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Love is **FOR** the one being loved

- Whether they **receive** it, **reject** it, or **ignore** it
- It's not love if we **require** a response by them

Love is the most costly thing we ever receive

- And the most costly thing we can ever give
- Love invests everything **Up Front**

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**I John 4:9-10 & 19**

- "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we **might** live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (substitutionary sacrifice) for our sins."
- "We love Him **because** He first loved us."

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We love others that they **might** receive it and respond with love

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**Romans 5:8**, "But God **demonstrates** His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

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**Love loves First**

- Our love is a response to His...

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Love is **first given**, before it can be received

- And love is **given first**

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How do we express the fruits of love? How did He?

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**John 20:21**, So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**"

How did Jesus sow the fruit of love among the people He loves?

- **Live and in person**
- Do you think we can improve on that?

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#### **Romans 8:35-39**

- Loved by Him & loving in His behalf

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We can write about love on the internet

- We can send an email, text, tweet or other digital format
- But love only gets **demonstrated** personally

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Hearing about love isn't enough

- People need to **see it**
- **How** will we love them, and **why**?
- We need to first **decide** that we will
- **Love doesn't happen by accident**

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Paul wanted to teach the Corinthian believers about love

- What it is, and its priorities
- So he **first** identified what it is **not first**

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#### **I Corinthians 12:1-31 (Vs. 31)**

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#### **I Corinthians 13:1-13 (Vs. 13)**

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**I Corinthians 14:1**, "Pursue love... and desire spiritual gifts"

- **I Corinthians 13:1-4...**
- **Without love...** you are nothing but unprofitable noise!

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For years I led ministry efforts from a purely outcome-based motivation

- A leader told me, "You so stack the deck in your own favor that you can't possibly lose."
- It was effective, but **was it love?**

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Looking back, I would say it was love **toward God**

- But was it the love **of God?**
- God was **kind enough** to change my motivation
- I'm not trying to win anything anymore