

# **The Fruit of the Spirit: Introduction and Love**

*August 18 – 21, 2024*

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## **Introduction: Sunday, August 18**

- From **Galatians 5: 22 – 23**, describe the fruit of the Spirit in general terms. How would you define the purpose of this list of attributes provided by Paul? (*Matthew 7: 17 – 20; Colossians 1: 9 – 10*)
- How does this list compare to the works / deeds of the flesh that Paul lists in **Galatians 5: 19 – 21**? What can we learn from comparing these two lists?
- How does the list of the fruit of the Spirit relate to Paul's overall theme in his letter to the Galatians (pertaining to the fact that the Old Law had been fulfilled)? (*Galatians 5: 6; Galatians 6: 9 – 10*)
- Is there any relevance to the order in which Paul presents the attributes comprising the fruit of the Spirit?
- Consider how God demonstrates these attributes toward us, and how they are descriptive of His character. Subsequently, consider how God expects us to demonstrate these attributes toward Him and to others.

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## Love (Part 1): Wednesday, August 21

### 1 John 4: 7 – 11

- In **verses 7 & 8**, how does John connect loving one another with knowing God? What is the significance of this connection?
- Describe the meaning of John's statement at the end of **verse 8** that "God is love". What does his observation teach us about the love that God has for us, and how He acts on that attribute?
- According to **verse 9**, how did God show His love for us? What is the outcome of the love that God displayed in sending Jesus to die on the cross? (*Romans 5: 8 – 9*)
- From **verses 10 & 11**, how should we respond to the fact that God loves us (to the extent that He was willing to send Christ to die for our sins)? (*Romans 8: 31 – 32*)

### Matthew 22: 35 – 40

- What was the intent of the question that the lawyer asked to Jesus?
- From **verses 37 & 38**, what did Jesus state as the "first and great commandment"? Considering the context of the original quote from **Deuteronomy 6: 4 – 5**, describe the meaning of His statement.
- In **verse 39**, what was the second command that Jesus gave? How did the second command build on the first (from **verse 37**)? (*Leviticus 19: 18*)
- What point did Jesus convey in **verse 40** about the importance of love in regard to our relationship with God and with one another?