

## Fruit of the Spirit – Love

6/9/19

### Pray

Today we are starting a new series of sermons  
looking at the Fruit of the Spirit

And Paul tells us in Galatians

***The fruit of the Spirit is - Love, Joy, Peace;  
patience kindness goodness; Faithfulness gentleness and self control  
Galatians 5.22***

Can we say that together

***The fruit of the Spirit is - Love, Joy, Peace;  
patience kindness goodness; Faithfulness gentleness and self control  
Galatians 5.22***

and today we are staring at the beginning by thinking about love

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And so my first point is **What is Love?**

Now in greek there are several words  
all translated by the one English word love

One of the greek words for love is **Eros**  
from which we get the word erotic  
And Eros means sexual love

Another greek word for love is **Phileo**  
from which we get the place name Philadelphia  
and Phileo means **Friendship**

and another greek word for love is **Agape**  
and this is the kind of love God has for us and we have for him  
And agape means **covenant love and is the choice to act**  
And today we are thinking about this kind of love – **the choice to act**

And there are two more things I would like to say under this heading

And the first is **Love is a verb**

St John writes in **1 John 3.18**

<sup>18</sup> ***Dear children, let us not love with words or speech  
but with actions and in truth.***

Love is a verb

and because love is a verb

and because Agape love is a choice to act

**we can choose to be loving**

so for example **Colossians 3.14** says

<sup>14</sup> ***And over all these virtues put on love,***

**And so my first point is Let's choose to be loving**

**My SECOND point is + this is the theology I want you to remember**

**LOVE is a symphony in 4 movements**

And I am indebted to Gerry O'Mahony for this idea

Gerry is a Jesuit, a follower of St Ignatius

and this comes from his book the two edged gospel

and the first movement in LOVES symphony is

**1 God loves everyone**

And you already know that God loves everyone

So for example when it rains it doesn't only rain on the Christians

God sends the sunshine and showers on Christians and non Christians alike

Because God loves everyone

And similarly in our passage – in *1 John 4 on page 1227*

*<sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins*

Jesus died for the sins of everyone in the whole world

That is what grace means

God acted first by loving everyone

**1 God loves everyone**

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And the second movement in LOVES symphony is

**2 Some people love God back**

and in our reading this comes in *verse 15*

*<sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.*

God gives us free will - he wants everyone to love him back

But **agape love is a choice to act**

And so God gives us free will – the choice to love him back or not

And you are here today because you love him

And just like my love for Alison

the more we love God the more time we will spend with him

in our weekly worship and our daily devotions

**2 Some people Love God back**

The third movement in LOVES Symphony

**3 God invites us to love our neighbour**

And this comes in *verses 11,12*

*<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

*<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

First of all God loves us and we respond to him by loving him back

And then he invites us to love our neighbour

So that we can become channels through which Gods love flows

A lot like the prayer of St Francis - Make me a channel of your peace

**3 God invites us to love our neighbour**

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And the fourth movement in LOVES symphony

**4 We choose to love our neighbours**

and almost all of us are at this fourth stage in this symphony

and HOW do we love our neighbours

well *Luke 10* says

**1 Lets speak peace** – and this is what this term is all about

About living out the character of Jesus in our lives

About being filled with the fruit of the spirit

*The fruit of the Spirit is - Love, Joy, Peace;*

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*Galatians 5.22*

Can we say that together

*The fruit of the Spirit is - Love, Joy, Peace;*

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*Galatians 5.22*

**1 Lets speak peace**

the second part of HOW we love our neighbours in *Luke 10* is

**2 Lets Eat and drink together**

So please do stay for tea or coffee at the end

And please do have a BBQ for your neighbours

And please do invite your neighbours round for Christmas drinks

And if they invite you round to there please say yes

**2 Lets eat and drink together**

### **3 Lets Serve your neighbours**

Now in your service sheet today you will find a pink slip  
Because each year we like to invite you to join one of the Service teams  
They are lead by Sandra, Jane, Alison and Julie  
And the various jobs the Sunday service teams do are on this slip

And ideally we would like everyone of you to be in a service team  
Because it is as we serve others that God remakes us  
It is as we serve others that he transforms us into the image of his son

So please take this slip - And fill it in  
And give it back to Sandra or Jane or Alison or Julie  
Or me at the door

The third part of how we love our neighbour

### **3 Lets serve our neighbours**

### **4 Lets Speak about our faith**

Now I think we find this difficult because we are British  
But between now and Christmas there are loads of special services  
And I am going to make invitations for this services and give them to you  
So that you can give them to your neighbours  
So what would it be best for you to invite your neighbour to  
It could be Harvest or Remembrance or Advent Carols  
or one of the Christmas Services

we are supposed to love our neighbours in word and deed

### **4 Let's speak about our faith**

### **And my THIRD point**

### **3 The fruit of the Spirit is an orange**

The bible does not say this but I find it helps me  
To remember **the fruit of the Spirit is an orange**  
There are nine segments and **we all need to have all nine segments**

### **The fruit of the spirit is singular and not plural**

It is NOT the fruits of the spirit  
So I cant say to Alison I will do love joy and peace  
But you can do the patience

### **We all need to have all nine segments**

### **It is also the fruit of the SPIRIT**

So when God is at work in us then we will be full of love and joy and peace  
And when I am impatient then you can tell I need more Holy Spirit in me

### **And finally it is the FRUIT of the Spirit**

We are going to look at a different segment of this fruit each week  
But I am not expecting anyone to have reached sinless perfection  
by the end of November

### **It takes time for fruit to grow**

And as we think about the fruit of the spirit on a Sunday  
And as we discuss them in our home groups  
My hope and prayer is that we will be changed slowly but surely  
So that the girls on the checkout in Tesco and the Coop  
Will know that we are Christians by our fruit  
By the Love Joy and peace that we show in each and every conversation  
In our ordinary everyday lives

PRAY