

# Four Fruits Of Love

Intro: In speaking of our need to beware of false teachers, twice Jesus said that we know them by their fruit; Mat. 7:15-20 <sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. <sup>16</sup> Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? <sup>17</sup> Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." This is a principle that is applied to many experiences. In this lesson, let us notice the fruit of *love*.

The New Testament sets forth what constitutes true love. It is central to the teachings of Christ as is seen in His answer to the lawyer as to the greatest commandment; Mat. 22:37-39 <sup>37</sup> Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Love of God and love of neighbor as oneself. In this lesson, I want us to center on the fruits of love for God and His Son.

## I. WE CANNOT LOVE THE WORLD

### A. We have warnings not to love the world.

1. Jam. 4:4 <sup>4</sup> Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."
2. 1 John 2:15 <sup>15</sup> Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

### B. What does it mean to love the world?

1. John explains; 1 John 2:16-17 <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."
2. It means not to be conformed to this world; Rom. 12:2 <sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
3. One who loves God will not allow the world to determine his conduct.
  - a. He will not be living according to the lust of the flesh, eyes, and pride of life.
  - b. He will not allow innocent interest and causes of the world interfere with putting God first.
  - c. Mat. 13:22 <sup>22</sup> He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."
  - d. Mat. 6:24 <sup>24</sup> No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."
4. The one who loves God will only allow Christ to determine his conduct.

## II. WE WILL LOVE ONE ANOTHER

### A. Jesus clearly taught we are to love one another.

1. Mat. 19:19 <sup>19</sup> Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."
2. Mat. 22:39 <sup>39</sup> And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."
3. This love overrides all situations of life: social, racial, national, etc.
4. This love extends even to our enemies; Mat. 5:44, 46 <sup>44</sup> But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; <sup>45</sup> That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?"

**B. Jesus also practiced love of all men.**

1. Rom. 5:8 <sup>68</sup> But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
2. 1 John 2:2 <sup>62</sup> And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”
3. Jesus left heaven, coming to this world, and died for sinful mankind.
  - a. John 15:13 <sup>63</sup> Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”
  - b. Phi. 2:6-7 <sup>66</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:”

**C. Jesus gave us an illustration of what love is.**

1. The parable of the good Samaritan; Luke 10:25-37.
  - a. The good Samaritan was a neighbor to one who was in need even though they were strangers.
  - b. When we see others in need, we have a chance to demonstrate that love by being a neighbor to them.
2. 1 John 4:20 <sup>20</sup> If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”
3. 1 John 3:16-18 <sup>16</sup> Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup> But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? <sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

**III. WE WILL LOVE THE THINGS CHRIST LOVED****A. A love of the lost.**

1. Luke 19:10 <sup>10</sup> For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
2. 1 Tim. 2:6 <sup>6</sup> Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”
3. We must love the lost as He did.
  - a. The Great Commission.
  - b. The early church possessed this love.
    - (1) Acts 8:4 <sup>4</sup> Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”
    - (2) This is why they would be able to evangelize the world within less than 30 years.
      - (a) From the beginning of the church in about AD 33 to the writing of Colossians probably between AD 60-62.
      - (b) Col. 1:23 <sup>23</sup> If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;”
  - c. Are we willing to put forth the time and effort to reach the lost.

**B. A love of the downtrodden.**

1. Acts 10:38 <sup>38</sup> How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”
2. Christ loved and helped the sick, crippled, poor, unfortunate, and downtrodden of His day.
3. He demonstrated what it means to love one's neighbor as oneself; Mat. 22:39 <sup>39</sup> And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
4. Jesus based the Judgment on how we treat them.
  - a. Mat. 25:31-46 (hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked sick, in prison)

- b. Obviously, this is not the entirety of what the Bible teaches regarding how we will be judged.

**C. A love for the church.**

1. Christ loved the church supremely.
  - a. Acts 20:28 <sup>28</sup>“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
  - b. Eph. 5:25 <sup>25</sup>“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”
2. One cannot love Christ without loving His church.
  - a. When Saul persecuted the church, Christ said to him: Acts 9:4 <sup>4</sup>“And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?”
  - b. The church is the spiritual body of Christ on earth; Eph. 1:22-23 <sup>22</sup>“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
  - c. It is where we glorify God: Eph. 3:21 <sup>21</sup>“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”
3. If we love the Lord, we must love the church and never neglect, ignore, or disparage it in any way.

#### IV. WE WILL KEEP CHRIST’S COMMANDS

**A. Scriptures teach this simple truth.**

1. John 14:15, 21 <sup>15</sup>“If ye love me, keep my commandments.... <sup>21</sup>He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”
2. 1 John 2:3 <sup>3</sup>“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”
3. 1 John 5:2-3 <sup>2</sup>“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

**B. This is the final and infallible test of our love for Christ.**

1. This is the test that separates the true lovers of Christ as opposed to the hypocrites and pretenders.
2. Some will keep some of God’s commands without having true love for him.
  - a. For example, attending worship services.
  - b. But their life has little about God or concern for Him.
3. True love for God finds joy in serving and living for Him.
  - a. He will not feel it is a drudgery to obey Him.
  - b. He will not have to be begged to be about His Father’s business.
  - c. To hesitate or be unwilling to do what He says shows a lack of love for Him.
4. To have true love for Him, we must:
  - a. Obey all of His commands.
  - b. Be willing to keep all those commands even when we might not like them.

**Conclusion:** What do the fruits of your life say about your love for God? Let us make sure we love Christ supremely and bear these glorious fruits in our lives. John says: 1 John 4:19 <sup>19</sup>“We love him, because he first loved us.” Paul would write: 2 Cor. 5:14 <sup>14</sup>“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead.” Allow Christ’s love for us to compel (NKJV) us and break every barrier down so we will love Him.