

Fruit of Love

Gal.5:22

1-31-2010

When investigating the quality of the attributes of the Spirit listed for us by Paul, Love is recorded first. I would make something of this position except Peter in a similar list put Love last. (2Pt.1:3-8) Only the Holy Spirit who guided these men to write would know the reason for the ordering. Love however is premium, as we shall see.

What matters is Love. Since God is Love and Christians are His Children, Love would demand to be part of the genetic material from which we are made. To go a little deeper, or farther back, all humanity is of course created in God's image and must contain some measure of this quality. You might say Christians get a double dip of Love.

A farmer will tell you that when weeds flourish the intended crop suffers loss. Jesus tells us that when wickedness increases, love decreases. (Mat.24:12) God has the capacity to love us even in our wickedness. (Rom.5:8) This shows us a quality in the Love from God the Father; it has the strength to remain resilient even in the midst of sin and wickedness.

Paul had more to say about the gifts of the Spirit than most and yet he indicated that even in their goodness and greatness they would not be worth anything if Love was not overshadowing their use and results. (1Cor.13:1-13) Paul wants us to know that out of faith, hope and Love; Love is the greater.

Pick any hate group you want and look for a hospital built by them and list them on one side and then list the hospitals built by Christians. Christians poses the Love of their Father. This attribute of the Spirit must be nurtured, exercised and fed; as do the rest because they are wared against by the flesh the Spirit inhabits. (1Pt.2:9-12)

This is important for us to lay hold of, we are not what we use too be, not anymore, we are now Children of God and as Children of God, born of the divine. (2Pt.1:3-4) Since Christians are reborn different, they ought to live their lives in harmony and cooperation with who they are becoming like - Jesus. (Jn.1:12-13; 2Cor.3:18; 1Jn.3:2)

Christians have been re-birthed into something dynamically greater than what they used to be. (Eph.5:8-20; 1Pt.2:9-12) John drives home the point of Love as a dominate feature of our new birthing. (1Jn.2:8-11, 4:20-21) We are obligated by virtue of a greater gift to greater service - Love.