

A Fruitful Season - Part 3

What Matters Most

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

Galatians 5:16-18 (NLT)

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear:* sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. **Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*

Galatians 5:19-21 (NLT)

***But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:* love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.**

Galatians 5:22-26 (NLT)

If you are a follower of Christ Jesus, it makes no difference whether you are circumcised or not. All that matters is your faith that makes you love others.

Galatians 5:6 (CEV)

- Love must be your highest goal.

Let love be your highest goal.

1 Corinthians 14:1a (NLT)

Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it—because it does.

1 Corinthians 14:1a (MSG)

Why make love our highest goal?

1. Without love life is empty.

*If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. **So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.***

1 Corinthians 13:3 (MSG)

*The man answered, “**You must love** the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ **And, ‘Love** your neighbor as yourself.”*

“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

Luke 10:27-28 (NLT)

- Nothing I say will matter.

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging symbol.

1 Corinthians 13:1 (NLT)

- Nothing I know will matter and nothing I believe would matter.

If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:2 (NLT)

Even if I have the gift of faith so I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I will still be worth nothing at all without love.

1 Corinthians 13:2b (TLB)

- Nothing I give will or accomplish will matter.

If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:3 (NLT)

No matter what I say or what I believe or what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

1 Corinthians 13:3 (MSG)

2. Love is going to last forever.

There are three things will last forever- faith, hope and love-and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT)

*"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why: I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.' "Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' **Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me--you did it to me.'***

Matthew 25:34-40 (MSG)