

Fruit of the New Birth – Lesson 2

Our New Love Nature

- **Please Read: John 3:3-8**
- The New Birth is the rebirth of the human spirit
- Being saved or not being saved is determined by whose family we belong to
- **Please Read: 1 John 3:7-15**
- We are either a child of the devil (John 8:44) or a child of God (1 John 3:1-2)
- When we confessed Jesus as our Lord and Savior we became a new creation
 - o A new species, something that did not exist before

2 Corinthians 5:17 AMP, “Therefore if any person is [in grafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!”

- In Romans 6:23 talks about the “...*gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*”
- **Question:** What is eternal life?
- Notice what the AMP stated in 2 Cor. 5:17, “if any person is ‘in grafted’ in Christ...”
- When we received the gift of eternal life, we were grafted into Jesus Christ
- **Please Read: John 15:1-17**
- As a branch connected to the vine, we take on the nature of that vine
 - o And the nourishing sap (Romans 11:17) of God’s grace causes us to bear fruit

Question: What is the nature of God according to 1 John 4:8, 16-21?

- God is love, so receiving eternal life is receiving the nature of God within us- His love
- We are love children of a love God, the nature of our recreated spirit is God’s love

Romans 5:5, “And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Question: Can this love nature or fruit of our recreated spirit grow within us, if so how?

Philippians 1:9-11, “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God.”

We need to understand that love can grow and develop because it is a fruit of our spirit, and fruit grows. Love is the fruit of our recreated human spirit- received when we were born again.

- Just as white light is the culmination of all colors
 - o Love is the white light that is a combination of all the other fruit of our spirit

In Galatians 5:22 the translators capitalized the letter “s” in the word “spirit,” leading us to believe it refers to the Holy Spirit. However, W.E. Vines Expository Dictionary of the New Testament points out there is only one Greek word for “spirit” and that is “*pneuma*,” which means breath or spirit. Therefore, sometimes it is difficult to tell whether the Bible is talking about the Holy Spirit or the human spirit, unless it specifically says the Holy Spirit because the same Greek word, “*pneuma*,” is used for both words.

- It is obvious that the Bible is talking about the human spirit here in Galatians 5:22
- As we stated earlier in John 15, we are the branches, connected to the vine- Jesus
- We bear the fruit of love because we are grafted into the God who is love
- Certainly the Holy Spirit is within us according to 1 Cor. 6:19; 1 John 4:4 and others
- The point I’m trying to make is that we were not born again full grown mature believers
- Spiritual growth is about developing that love nature within us to be more like Jesus

1 John 2:5-6

But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Ephesians 5:8-11, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”

If we'll just let that love nature within our spirit rise up and dominate every aspect of our lives, what a difference it would make. Since love is a fruit of the recreated human spirit, it can grow and be developed- Romans 5:5. Now it's up to us to do something with that love nature.

- We can feed the love of God in our hearts on God's Word and exercise it daily
- Fruit isn't produced fully mature; it doesn't all of a sudden appear- to grows in stages
- Just as faith works by love (Galatians 5:6) so also love works by faith
- The love of God increases by confessing it and acting on that love every day

1 Thessalonians 3:12, "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."

- **Please Read:** **1 Corinthians 3:1-9**
- The Corinthian church was an example of baby Christians- still acting like the world
- We all start out as babes in Christ (1 Pt. 2:1-3), just don't want to stay there indefinitely
- Spiritual maturity is measured by our love walk; baby Christians are still selfish and petty
- **Question:** How do we grow up spiritually?

Love – The fulfillment of the Law

- Remember we had read in Galatians 5:23, "...Against such things there is no law."
- Moffatt's Translation: "*There is no law against those who practice such things.*"
- Amplified: "*If you are walking in love, no charge can be brought against you.*"
- **Please Read:** **Romans 13:8-10**
- Vs 10, "*Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*"
- Wow, according to the Bible, if we walk in love we will never sin

Question: Here is the million dollar question, "How do we love God?"

1 John 5:2-4, "This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith."

Love for God is to obey God's Word and when we obey God's word we are loving other people. Simple but profound, love is not a feeling but an act of our will to obey the Bible.