

April 4, 2021

Fruits of Love

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
P.O. Box 683
Olney, IL 62450
217-218-0803
www.olneychurchofchrist.org

Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
-------------	---------

Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall
Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff,
Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome

We offer Bible classes for all ages

We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Just as loving God with the totality of our being is the foundation of heeding *all* of His will for us (**Matt. 22:37-38, 40; 1 John 5:3**), loving others as ourselves is the foundation of treating people the way God desires (**Matt. 22:39-40; Rom. 13:9-10**). When *agape* love is genuinely directed toward others, it produces fruit that gives proof such love exists.

For instance, **1 Corinthians 13:4** teaches that “**love suffereth long.**” If we love as we should, we won’t be short-tempered with others or retaliate when treated poorly.

1 Corinthians 13 also shows us that love is *forgiving*. The end of **verse 5** says that love “**does not keep a record of wrongs.**” If we love others as we should, we won’t keep a mental list of their mistakes to use it against them. We won’t harbor bitter grudges or resentment, but be forgiving.

The forgiving spirit love shows is further manifested by a sincere desire for others’ good. **1 Corinthians 13:7** teaches that love “**hopes all things,**” which indicates that love *wants* to find good in others. While envy is discontented at others’ good fortune “**love doesn’t envy**” (**verse 4**), and desires the best *in* others and *for* others.

Beyond *desiring* others’ good, love *seeks* others’ highest good. This principle is also taught in **1 Corinthians 13. Verse 5** notes that love “**doesn’t seek its own way.**” An illustration of this is in **1 Corinthians 10. Verse 23** of that chapter speaks about things God permits but does not require,

Fruits of Love

(Continued)

and says, “**All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but not all things build up.**” Verse 24 follows this up by saying, “**Let no one seek his own, but each one his neighbor’s good.**” The point is that instead of only asking, “what does God permit me to do that pleases me?”, we ought to think about what we can do that would best influence others. This is the attitude of love.

Love shows kindness (1 Cor. 13:4), both in deeds (1 John 3:17-18) and in speech. An example of this is seen in Galatians 5:14-15. The word “**But**” in verse 15 shows that biting and devouring one another, as the verse condemns, opposes the love promoted in verse 14. Love opposes contentious, quarrelsome attitudes.

This isn’t to say that love tolerates sin or “sugar-coats” the truth. Genuine love discourages sin out of concern for others’ souls. This is taught in 1 Corinthians 13. Verse 6 notes that love “**doesn’t rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth.**” Love doesn’t delight in others’ disobedience, but in their obedience. Such is exemplified in Mark’s account of the rich young ruler. Before Jesus’ “**one thing you lack...**” statement, the inspired writer says “**Jesus looking at him loved him**” (Mark 10:21). Jesus truly cared for the eternal well-being of the rich young ruler’s soul, and thus told the man what he *needed* to hear, though the man clearly did not *want* to hear it.

Sincere *agape* love is also manifested in its opposition to the sin of partiality. This is taught

in James 2:8-9. The word “**But**” in verse 9 shows that the sin of “**show[ing] partiality**” condemned in this verse opposes the command in verse 8 to love our neighbors as ourselves. While there are times we must make distinctions between two or more people (cf. 1 Thes. 5:12-13; 2 Thes. 3:14), love will lead us to avoid treating one as if he or she is better or worse than another based on wealth, ethnicity, popularity, education, etc. (James 2:1-7). Love will lead us to let go of any such prejudices and be *fair* in our treatment of others.

Love is also the root of overcoming sinful gossip. The fact that love “**bears all things**” (1 Cor. 13:7) might be alluding to this principle. When the “golden rule” is practiced, gossip won’t be (cf. Prov. 17:9).

While some people gossip to bring others low, others boast to exalt themselves high. Such boastfulness is also overcome by love. The end of 1 Corinthians 13:4 notes that “**Love doesn’t brag, is not proud.**” If we truly love others as ourselves, we will not care to be esteemed above others, but will have the attitude of humble servitude commanded in Philippians 2:3-4.

These examples demonstrate that biblical love for others is far deeper than the shallow concept of love often promoted by the world. Genuine concern for others is proven through actions, words, thoughts, and attitudes that mimic Jesus’ view of and treatment toward us (John 13:34-35).

Such fruits are characteristic of those heeding the Lord’s teachings about love.

Area Gospel Meetings

Casey Westside church of Christ:

April 11-15 (with John Gentry)

Sun: 10:30, 6:00; Mon-Thurs: 7:00

*Our Gospel Meeting will be **April 18-23** with Wayne Walker (see flyers for topics)*

+++++

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

+++++

Words to Consider

“while we don't look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” – 2 Corinthians 4:18

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Barbara G (Cancer)
L.A. S (COVID recovery)
Justice G (Perthes disease)
Robert C
Guyla Y

Daily Bible Reading

April 4 – Exodus 34-36; Matthew 22:23-46
April 5 – Exodus 37-40; Matthew 23:1-22
April 6 – Leviticus 1-4; Matthew 23:23-39
April 7 – Leviticus 5-7; Matthew 24:1-28
April 8 – Leviticus 8-10; Matthew 24:29-51
April 9 – Leviticus 11-12; Matthew 25
April 10 – Leviticus 13; Matthew 26

“God, having in the past spoken to the fathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, in these last days has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.” – Hebrews 1:1-2

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Bible Study: Harold
Worship: Larry
Evening: Carlyle

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

John

Assignments

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Reading: Steve
Announcements: Mike
Table: Travis
Serve: Darrell
Douglas

Clean Building

Patty

Prepare Communion

Julzy

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Invitation: Travis

Upcoming Reminders

April 18-23: Gospel Meeting

(with Wayne Walker)

Anniversaries

April 9 – David & Janice

Birthdays

April 25 – Jessica

April 29 – Emily

April 29 – Jerry