

Producing Fruit That Lasts

Texts: John 15:9-17

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Intro/Review: "Rehearsal", Parables, Review, God's Objective

A. God's Love, The Essential Nutrient

1. Modeled by God the Father and God the Son (v. 9; John 3:35, 5:20; 17:24; Matt. 3:17; Mark 9:7)
2. Demonstrated by God the Son to His followers (v. 9, 13; John 17:26)
3. Commanded of us by Jesus, the Son of God (v. 12, 17)

B. God's Love, Keeping the Storehouses Full

1. Holding to the Commands of God (v. 10, 13; Mk. 12:30-31)
2. Willfully Acting (1 Cor. 13:4-8; Gal. 5:22-23)
3. Seeking and Extending **Forgiveness** (Prov. 17:9)

C. God's Love, Its Life Changing Effects

1. Friendship with Jesus = Full Partnership in the "Family Business" (vs. 14-15; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; Matt. 4:19)
2. Complete Joy (v. 11)
3. Divine Assistance and Capabilities (v. 16)

Conclusion/Call/Response

Table Talk

1. God the Father and God the Son demonstrate the perfect way to love when in a relationship. Read John 3:35, 5:20, 17:24-26; Matt. 3:17; and Mark 9:7). What examples of relational love do you see in each one? What might be the benefits and challenges of employing these strategies in your methods of relating to family members?
2. Discuss the descriptors of love found in 1 Cor. 13:4-8, OR the Fruits of the Spirit qualities in Gal. 5:22-23. Which characteristics do you find easier to practice? Which ones do you find more difficult?
3. Elaborate on how viewing the production of eternal fruit for God as a privilege vs. a responsibility might change one's attitude as well as productivity?
4. If we are going to produce an abundance of spiritual fruit that lasts, how essential would you say prayer is? Why?
5. Share one thing from the sermon or Table Talk discussion, you feel the Lord is speaking to you about. What might be a practical first step to employ or integrate it into your spiritual fruit bearing practice?
6. Partner up and pray for one another in alignment with the topic of bearing much fruit that lasts.