

CULTIVATING *Character*

Message 1 Love

Mark Taylor
April 8, 2018

► Outline

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!

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

A. When it comes to Cultivating Character:

1. Remember _____.
(Galatians 5:1. C/R: Genesis 2:16; John 8:36; Acts 13:39)
2. Recognize the _____.
(Galatians 5:13-21. C/R: Romans 8:5-6)
3. Rely on the _____.
(Galatians 5:16, 22-25. C/R: Zechariah 4:6; John 14:26)

B. Fruit of the Spirit: _____

We love because he first loved us.
1 John 4:19 (NIV)

Four (primary) Greek Words for Love:

1. Στοργή (Storgē)
2. Φιλέω (Phileō)
3. Ερως (Eros)
4. Ἀγάπη (Agapē)
(John 3:16; Romans 13:8; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

Answers: A. 1. freedom 2. battle 3. Spirit B. Love

Resource Information: Unless otherwise noted, outline and onscreen verses are from NLT version (New Living Translation) of *The Holy Bible*. C/R, if noted, refers to a 'cross reference' of Scripture verse(s). Today's outline and discussion guide are available to mobile device users through the Brookwood Church app available through your favorite app store.

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► Discussion Guide

Use this guide with friends or on your own to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. Carve out time to reflect, learn and talk with God. Find a Small Group at brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups. For additional Bible Study tools, guides and devotionals, check out blueletterbible.org.

Conversation Starter

When you first moved away from home, what did *freedom* mean to you?

Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [Galatians 5:1-4](#).

1. From what has Christ *truly set us free*? (See also: [Romans 7:4-6](#))
2. How do we *fall away from grace* by trying to keep the law?
3. What role should God's law have in the life of a believer?

Read [Galatians 5:16-25](#).

4. From your own experience, describe what it means to *live by the desires of the sinful nature*.
5. By contrast, what do you think it means to *live by (or walk in) the Spirit*? (See also: [Romans 8:5-14](#))
6. What are practical ways you can become more aware of being led by God's Spirit in a more ongoing way?

Focus on the Fruit of the Spirit: LOVE ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)).

7. Read [1 John 4:19](#). What does it mean to be loved by God?
8. If your love for others is related to your experience of God's love for you, what steps can you take to receive more of God's love?
9. Ask God to give you the name of one person who needs you to love him or her like Jesus has loved you. What steps will you take?
10. In your own words, summarize this week's teaching.

Soul Training: *Deepening Your Love for Jesus*

Quietly focus your heart and mind on Jesus in prayer, expressing your love to Him. Then ask God to deepen your love for Jesus and others.

If you've never experienced God's forgiveness and grace, we'd love the opportunity to talk with you about a life-changing relationship with Jesus. Email mark.taylor@brookwoodchurch.org or call [864.688.8211](tel:864.688.8211).

Memory Verse

We love because He first loved us.

[1 John 4:19 \(NIV\)](#)

Daily Reading

Day 1: [Galatians 5:22-23](#)

Day 4: [1 Corinthians 13:1-8](#)

Day 2: [Galatians 5:24-25](#)

Day 5: [John 3:16](#)

Day 3: [Galatians 5:13-14](#)

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, April 15, we'll continue the series *Cultivating Character* by considering how JOY can become a greater part of our lives. To prepare for the message, read [Isaiah 35:10](#); [John 15:8-11](#); [1 Peter 1:8-9](#).



580 Brookwood Point Place • Simpsonville SC 29681
864.688.8200 • brookwoodchurch.org