

# The Church of Our Saviour

## *Practicing God's Graciousness*

### Adult Christian Formation

#### Lenten Bible Study Week 1: The Fruit of the Spirit

Please read the following passage from Paul's letter to the church in Galatia and consider the discussion questions.

##### **Galatians 5:1, 13-26**

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. <sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. <sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

##### **Week 1: Study Guide and Discussion Questions**

1. Paul provides two contrasting lists: the **works** of the flesh vs. the **fruit** of the Spirit. What do you notice about these two lists and the description Paul uses?
2. In light of all you know about the nature and character of God, what does the singularity of the "fruit" with the variety of characteristics suggest to you?
3. Based on the gift of the Spirit that all Christians receive at baptism, do you believe that each of the fruit of the Spirit is available to you? Why or why not?
4. What changes do you think are necessary in your own life and/or the life of this community to see more of the fruit of the Spirit?

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5. From the passage above, what do you read as the barriers to the fruit of the Spirit?
6. Scripture frequently uses fruit and vine as metaphors: how do we develop into fruit bearing people, and who is the vine?

To begin our study of love as a fruit of the Spirit, or characteristic of God, please read each of the following passages and complete the table (from Sandi Swanson *The Fruit of the Spirit*). Consider all the ways that God loves and how you have experienced that in your own life. Will you share?

<b>Passage</b>	<b>Who God Loved?</b>	<b>Why or How God Loved?</b>
Deuteronomy 7: 6-9		
Nehemiah 9:16-21		
Jeremiah 31:1-6		
Zephaniah 3:14-17		
John 3:16		
Romans 5:5-8		
Galatians 2:20		
Ephesians 2:4-9		