

INSIDE OUT



IT STARTS WITH LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:1 – 8

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MESSAGE NOTES

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. — Galatians 5:22 – 23 (ESV)

God invites us to receive His life so His fruit can grow from the Inside Out.

Living out the priorities of God in the character of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. — Spiritual Maturity

GOD'S love is the soil in which all the fruit grows.

- **Our fruit reveals our roots**

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. — 1 Corinthians 13:1 – 3 (ESV)

- **Our roots determine our fruit**

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. — 1 Corinthians 13:4 – 7 (ESV)

When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. — 1 Peter 2:23 (ESV)

- **Jesus changes our roots**

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. — 1 Corinthians 13:8 – 10 (ESV)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Real transformation doesn't begin with trying harder; it begins with growing deeper in Christ. In this first message of our Inside Out series, we discover that the Fruit of the Spirit is not a checklist to achieve but the evidence of a heart being changed by Jesus. As we receive His love and remain rooted in Him, the Holy Spirit grows His character in us from the inside out. Love is not just one fruit among many; it is the soil in which all the fruit grows.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use as many or as few of these questions as are helpful for your group or family discussion.

- Discussion Starter: Be honest... do you have a green thumb or a brown thumb? What's the most impressive thing you've grown, or the funniest thing you've accidentally killed?
- Read Galatians 5:22–23. Paul says "the fruit" (singular) of the Spirit. Why do you think he uses the singular instead of "fruits"? What does the fruit of the Spirit teach us about spiritual maturity?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–3. Which statement from these verses surprises or challenges you the most? Why do you think Paul says all our gifts, knowledge, and sacrifices amount to nothing without love?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7. Which description of love is the easiest for you to live out? Which one is the hardest right now? What might that reveal about what's happening in your heart and in your relationship with God?
- Read John 15:4–5 and Galatians 5:22–23. What is the connection between abiding in Christ and bearing fruit? How is that different from simply trying harder?
- Read 1 Peter 2:23. Jesus responded to suffering and injustice with love instead of retaliation. Where is God inviting you to trust Him instead of reacting out of hurt, anger, or fear?
- The message said, "Love isn't just one fruit among many; it's the soil in which all the fruit grows." What is one practical way you can intentionally receive and rest in Christ's love this week rather than relying on your own effort? How can our group pray for you?