

## Eternity Daily Bible Study

# The Importance Of Love

**Contact:** [John Edmiston](#) Missed one? You can read and download this series for free [at our website](#)

**Number: 21**

**Verses: John 15:1-14**

**Topic: Love Is A Fruitful Fruit!**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

**John 15:1-12** *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (2) Every branch in Me which does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch which bears fruit He prunes, so that it may bear more fruit. ... (4) Abide in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit on its own, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. (5) I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; because apart from Me you can do nothing. ... If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what ever you may desire, and it shall be done for you. (8) By this My Father is glorified, that you may bear much fruit; and you will become My disciples. (9) "Just as the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. (10) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and I abide in His love. (11) These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may abide in you, and that your joy may be full. (12) This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ...*

The main task of fruit is not to be food or to have great taste, rather it is to carry the seeds that lead to the reproduction of the fruit tree! Fruit is supposed to be fruitful! Oranges are full of orange seeds which are supposed to produce orange trees! Grapes, are full of grape seeds, and are supposed to reproduce grapevines. And olives, with their delicious olive seeds are supposed to lead to guess what – olive trees! The taste is partly so that animals eat them and excrete them in a big bunch of fertilizer!

(It is only with all the hybridization and genetic engineering that modern fruit is sterile and sometimes even without seeds at all but that is not God's intention.)

So it is with the fruit of the Spirit. God's love is supposed to bear fruit, and that fruit should "reproduce" in people's lives! Indeed we are to bear "much fruit", and that fruit should also be fruitful and alive and good!

Let's look at John 15:1-12 (above):

1. We bear fruit by abiding in the Vine which is Christ and submitting to God's pruning
2. If we abide in Christ, and He in us, then we bear much fruit
3. Part of being fruitful is having amazing answers to prayer
4. Abiding = obeying Christ's commandments=Loving one another as I have loved you

Love is at the exact center of God's will and keeps us abiding in Christ, being fruitful and having wonderfully answered prayers! In contrast, hatred and resentment and selfishness, cause us to be "dead branches" that are burned up and thrown away. God wants to prune off all the "dead" parts of our lives so we can bear even more fruit!

Instinctively we sense this is true when we see a bitter, hateful and resentful person and get the impression that they are without true spiritual life. Such folk have withered up inside and been cast out from grace, in part because they have never allowed themselves to receive or to give out grace! Rage, bitterness, contentiousness, spiritual pride and legalism cut us off from Christ:

**Galatians 5:1-4** *Stand fast therefore in the liberty with which Christ has made us free, and do not again be held with the yoke of bondage. (2) Behold, I, Paul, say to you that if you are circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. (3) For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do all the Law, (4) you who are justified by Law are deprived of all effect from Christ; you fell from grace.*

(In the time of Paul "circumcision for full salvation" was a contentious heresy, full of spiritual pride and legalism, and was based on works , not faith.)

In the last couple of bible studies we have talked about God's agenda for our lives. When we decide that the story is about God, and not about us, we start the process of being fruitful. Yet as soon as we make the story about ourselves we become "dried up". So if our love is to be a fruitful fruit we have to fix our eyes, not on ourselves, but on Jesus, who is the author and perfecter of our faith:

**Hebrews 12:1-3** *So therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every impediment, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) looking unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you be weary and discouraged in your souls.*

Discouragement bears no good fruit. It only produces resentment, despair, hostility, prayerlessness and unbelief. It saps our strength of action, robs us of boldness, turns us inward and makes our life sour and grumpy and loveless.

The way out of discouragement is to focus on Jesus and what He gladly endured on our behalf! When we stop thinking about our own story and focus on the story of the glory of the Son of God, then our spirit is strengthened and we are empowered! The cross shows us that not every moment in life is "fair" and that even Jesus had to suffer for God.

There are many weary discouraged saints who no longer believe that God loves them or that He will "turn up" for them to answer their prayers. They have given up, and for all practical purposes are almost atheists. For them God exists but does nothing "good" on their behalf. God's love is not real and tangible for them, and after a while their own capacity for zealous love diminishes. Eventually they retain a shell only, a private and intellectual faith full of ideas but lacking any substantial power.

Love cannot bear much fruit once discouragement has settled in. Discouragement leads you back to the self-life and is a great and terrible enemy of the pilgrim child of God, which Bunyan rightly called "Giant Despair"!

The Thessalonian church endured a great deal of persecution and discouragement and so Paul wrote to them extensively about the End Times, endurance and such things. Yet Paul always commended their love for one another. It seems that the Thessalonian Christians “encouraged the discouraged” and Paul would use terms such as “just as you also are doing” meaning that it was current daily practice:

**1 Thessalonians 5:11-14** *(11) Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. (12) And we request of you, brothers, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and instruct you, (13) and to regard them beyond all measure in love, because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. (14) Now we exhort you, brothers, admonish the disorderly, encourage the discouraged, be supportive of the weak, be patient toward all.*

Now this very encouraging and supportive community is one example of how that we can help each other to be totally fruitful. By encouraging one another we can help each other to remain in Christ, to be enthusiastic, to remain hopeful, and to bear fruit!

Fruit often needs a trellis for support (e.g our tomato bushes) otherwise the fruit falls on the ground. Other fruit trees need to have their branches tied up. As we become “supports” for one another we help each other to “bear much fruit”.

This is why you need to be part of a network of friends and ideally part of a long-term loving and supportive small group where you can be actively involved and known. The fruit of love is a living and very spiritual thing which must be cultivated in community. We grow in love, we do not manufacture it with programs!

As we minister to one another we become the body of Christ and thus abide in Christ and become fruitful. You cannot become fruitful just reading your Bible at home. You have to go out and love somebody! Love will be a fruitful fruit when we water it with encouragement, comfort, consolation and prayer and speak the truth to one another in love.

**Ephesians 4:15-16** *but speaking the truth in love, we may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ; (16) from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the working of the measure of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the edification of itself in love.*

*Quick Summary:* Your fruitfulness will come as you exercise one another love in a encouraging and supportive Christian community, and thus abide in Christ, experiencing powerful answers to your prayers (John 15:7). Discouragement is your enemy and you need to get out of discouragement by focusing on Christ and joining a positive faith-filled Christian community or small group.

Blessings,

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