

---

# The Fruit of Love (Conquering Hate)

---

The Fruit of the Holiness

Pastor Wil Nichols

May 24, 2020

**Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ**

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: [www.VictoriousPraise.org](http://www.VictoriousPraise.org)

EMAIL: [PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org](mailto:PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org), [Info@VictoriousPraise.org](mailto:Info@VictoriousPraise.org)

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

***Sermon: The Fruit of the Holiness: The Fruit of Love (Conquering Hate)***

***New Series Messages: “The Fruit of the Holiness”***

- **Based on Series “The Fruit of the Holy Spirit”**
- **We will again look at what’s the purpose of each element of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and how we produce and use them.**

***Lesson Text***

Matthew 5:43–45 (AV)<sup>43</sup> **Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. <sup>44</sup>But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; <sup>45</sup>That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**

James 4:1–2 (AV)<sup>1</sup> From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members? <sup>2</sup> Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

1 Corinthians 13:4–8 (AV)<sup>4</sup> Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, <sup>5</sup> Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; <sup>6</sup> Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; <sup>7</sup> Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. <sup>8</sup> Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

***Introduction***

So far this year we’ve looked at Holiness from the Lifestyle that God wanted us to live, and the Holy Spirit he sent to us to get us the power to Live it!

- The Joys of Holiness (How Holy People, Holy Places, and Holy Praises cause us to enter into the Joy of the Lord)
- The Requirements of Holiness (To Do Justly, To Love Mercy, and to Walk Humbly)
- The Secrete Place of Holiness (God’s promise to protect, keep, and comfort us during times of Terror, Pestilence, and Destruction)

I want to now revisit a series we did last year that dealt with the Fruit of the Spirit.

Now last year we look at this series from the perspective of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God sent to us to dwell within us give us power to overcome the enemy. Now we will look at the same series from the perspective of what’s produced within us when we walk in holiness.

Galatians 5: <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Unlike the gifts of the spirit that are given to us when we accept Christ into our hearts and only need to be stirred up; the fruit of the spirit must be produced as we walk in holiness.

Throughout this series we will define, discover purpose, and learn how to produce each element of the fruit of the Spirit.

Toda we will discover Love! It comes in three flavors; Eros (Human Attraction), Phelio (Human Friendship), and Agape (Godly or Divine Love).

Many relationships fail because they are based solely on one of the first two forms of love, and not enough on the third. As a result, we fight and war against each other; becoming enemies and hating each other.

So, let's learn how to overcome this hate, so that we can truly love each other!

***Series and Sermon: The Fruit of the Holiness: The Fruit of Love (Conquering Hate)***

“The Definition, Purpose, and Production of Love”

***I. The Definition of Love***

What is Love within the Fruit of the Spirit?

In the book “First Love, True Love, Best Love” that Dr. Grace and I authored several years ago, we explored the three types of love mentioned earlier; We called them the three faces of love:

1. Eros Love: A deep passionate and sexual love
2. Phileo Love: Brotherly love, deep friendship, or best friends
3. Agape Love: A Divine or Godly Love

The first love, Eros, is a love that God gave us to keep his commandment of replenishing the earth. It is the love that attracts a man to a woman. It is so powerful that one man worked 7 years for a woman (Jacob and Rachele); and worked another 7 years after being tricked.

But this is not the love of the Fruit of the Spirit because this love fails. Boyfriends and girlfriends break up, lovers stop loving, marriages end in divorce.

The second love, Phileo, is the powerful love of friendship or brotherly love. These best friend relationships can be deep and last of decades. People who have your back, “ride or die”!

But this is not the love of the Fruit of the Spirit because this love also fails. It requires reciprocation and thus friendships end when they become one-sided, or when there is betrayal.

The third love, Agape, ***is the love of the fruit of the Spirit*** because it is God himself.

1 John 4:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 John 4:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

**The Definition of Godly Love is a Self-Sacrificing Unconditional Love that never fails**

John 3:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

1 Corinthians 13: 8 Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

Eros Love Fails because we fall in and out of love all the time

Phileo Love Fails because we hurt and betray each other intentionally or unintentionally

But Agape Love never fails because, this Love comes from God, is God, and God never fails because it is God!

1 John 4:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

## ***II. The Purpose of Love***

Now that we understand the Definition of Love, let's now look at the Purpose of Love!

The purpose of Love can be understood when we exegete our second passage.

James 4:1–2 (AV)<sup>1</sup> From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members? <sup>2</sup> Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Our calling is to go into the world and win the lost. But the people of the world are wicked, hateful, deceitful, liars, and evil; and this causes us to hate, war, and fight!

John 8:44 (AV)<sup>44</sup> Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

But Peter teaches us that we need love, because only love can overcome sin and hate!

1 Peter 4:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

So, in order to keep from fighting and hating hateful people, the Holy Spirit produces this Godly love within us to overcome their hate.

### **The purpose of God's Love is to Conqueror Hate so that you can Draw Haters**

The New Living Translation says, 1 Peter 4:8 (NLT)<sup>8</sup> Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Jeremiah 31:3 (AV)<sup>3</sup> The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Without Love covering the sin that others perpetrate against us, we would endlessly fight and war; and eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.

Matthew 5:43–45 (AV)<sup>43</sup> **Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

And so instead of endlessly fighting and warring, we conqueror hate and endlessly Love!

1 Corinthians 13:4–8 (AV)<sup>4</sup> Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, <sup>5</sup> Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; <sup>6</sup> Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; <sup>7</sup> Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. <sup>8</sup> Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

### ***III. The Production of Love***

The Definition of Love is a Self-Sacrificing Love the never fails

The Purpose of Love is a Conqueror Hate so that we can Overcome and Win our Haters

Finally, the Production of Love comes when we Exercise the Love we've been Given.

Just like Faith, we are all given a measure of Love, a seed that must be grown and produced.

Before we knew Christ, if someone crossed us, hurt us, or betrayed us, they might be an enemy for life. Spouses divorce, Friends become enemies, Church members give up on each other.

John 13:34–35 (AV)<sup>34</sup> **A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

But how is this love known? How is this love displayed? How will people know we have it?

They will know it every time we conqueror hate. And the more we use it, the greater it grows!

John 15: <sup>13</sup> Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

### **We Produce Love by Exercising and Using It Against Hate!**

In order to produce muscles, you must exercise the muscles you have to produce more. In order to produce faith, you must exercise the faith you have to produce more.

And in order to produce Love, you must exercise the love you have to produce more!!

Matthew 5: <sup>44</sup> **But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

Every time we bless someone that curses us, we produce more Love

Every time we do good to someone that hate us, we produce more Love

Every time we pray for someone that despitefully uses us, we produce more Love

Every time we turn the other cheek from someone that persecutes us, we produce more Love

# The Fruit of Love (Conquering Hate)

Page 5 of 5 (May 24, 2020)

## Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Fruit of Love (Conquering Hate))

### Lesson Text

- Matthew 5:43–45, James 4:1–2, 1 Corinthians 13:4–8

### Sermon Outline

- I. The Definition of Love**
- II. The Purpose of Love**
- III. The Production of Love**

### Questions

#### **I. Getting to Know “Me”**

1. What quality do you most appreciate in a friend?
2. In what television sitcom would you want to live? Why?

#### **II. Into the Bible**

1. In Mark 12:29-34, Jesus answers the scribe’s question on the greatest commandment of all by teaching about love. Which type of love is Jesus speaking about? Why would this commandment be the greatest of all of them? The scribe agreed with Jesus and said this type of love was better than whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. What was the significance of whole burnt offerings and sacrifices? Why would the scribe’s response lead Jesus to tell him he was not far from the kingdom of God?
2. What is the message Jesus is conveying to us about the number of times to forgive according to Matthew 18:21-22: Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” 22 “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven.”

#### **III. Life Application**

1. Think of someone that you love to hate (past or present). List two ways that you will intentionally demonstrate God’s love towards them (and actually do it).
2. Self-evaluation: In what ways have you grown in your love relationships, (i.e., marriage, family, friend, co-workers, etc.). In what ways can you do better?