

Sermon Discussion Questions

Love, Joy, Peace

Galatians 5:22-23

November 20, 2016

1. The holidays are here. What do you love the most about the them, and what do you love the least about them?

2. There are two extremes when it comes to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. On the one hand, Christians can reject the work of the Holy Spirit for fear of too much experientialism (feeling like it's too much sensationalism). So, they can opt to keep God under control by being staunch, objective, and rigid. On the other hand, Christians can become obsessed with the Holy Spirit. Opting for emotionalism and sensationalism. They may risk being manipulated or moving away from what the Bible teaches.
 - a. How can we strike a healthy balance of allowing the Holy Spirit to have His way in us?
 - b. How can we know that what we are feeling or sensing is actually the Holy Spirit and not our own heart or mind? How can we keep this in check?

3. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: **The fruit of the Spirit is not for my own soul or my own wellbeing. It is for the benefit of others.** Explain.

4. Walk through your outline and the questions that were asked and discuss them with the group. Share how you are doing with what is asked.
 - a. What is the hardest part of love for you as it is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8?
 - b. Read these challenging words from Jesus in Matthew 5:43-46. Are you struggling with this? Why or why not. How can we help each other to love better?
 - c. Read Psalm 5:11; 16:11; and 32:11. How do you live in this reality, or do you?
 - d. Describe the parts of the wilderness that express joy (Psalm 65:12-13). Now describe the parts of the wilderness that express groaning (Romans 8:22).
 - e. Has the Lord done what He says He will do in Jude 24 in your life? Share your story.
 - f. What guidance can we gain to develop peace in our lives out of Psalm 34:11-14?
 - g. How can we bear the fruit of the Spirit called peace while at the same time live according to Jesus's words found in Matthew 10:34 and Luke 12:49-53?

5. Read Romans 8:6-8. So, how do we do it? How do you experience both of the results listed in those verses?