

# ***Faithful***

FRUITFUL – Part 8

November 22, 2020

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

## **Galatians 5:22-25**

*<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

*<sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.*

*<sup>1</sup> My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

*<sup>3</sup> We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. <sup>4</sup> Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. <sup>5</sup> But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: <sup>6</sup> Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.*

*<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. <sup>8</sup> Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.*

## **1 John 1:5-2:8**

- **Faithfulness:** is leading a truth-centered life.
- **Integrity:** is related to the word, “integer.” An integer is a whole number as opposed to a fraction.

- **What does the Bible say about truth?**

*“We should bear in mind that ‘the true’ in the usage of John is not so much the true in contrast with the false, or the real in contrast with the fictitious. It is the absolute as contrasted with the relative... the eternal as contrasted with the temporal, the permanent as contrasted with the temporary, the complete in contrast with the partial, the substantial in contrast with the shadowy.*

*God is ‘the truth’, truth absolute, ultimate, eternal, in contradistinction from all that is relative, derived, partial, and temporal.*

*When we speak, therefore, of the sanctity of truth, we must recognize that what underlies this concept is the sanctity of the being of God as the living and true God. He is the God of truth and all truth derives its sanctity from him. This is why all untruth or falsehood is wrong; it is a contradiction of that which God is. And this is why God cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; cf Romans 3:4).’ To lie would contradict himself and he cannot deny himself (II Timothy 2:13). It is his perfection to be consistent with himself, and all his ways are truth.*

*This attribute of God is often expressed as his ‘faithfulness’  
The certainty of his unchanging nature of his promises.”*

**- John Murray, in his essay, “The Sanctity of Truth”**

- **God is absolutely consistent with himself.**
- **If God is consistent with himself, what does this mean for us?**
  - ✓ It means to be consistent with reality.
  - ✓ It means to be consistent with what you said in the past.
  - ✓ It means to be consistent with place to place, and person to person, and public and private.

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

<sup>4</sup> “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

**Genesis 3:1-5**

- **What does it mean to be faithful?**

*If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.*

**1 John 1:6**

- **How do you cultivate truth and faithfulness in your life?**

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**1 John 2:7-8**

- ✓ Develop a lifestyle of repentance.

*“All of life is repentance.”*

**- Martin Luther**

- ✓ Remember that God is all knowing, kind and gracious.

*No one can hide from God. His eyes see everything we do.*

**Hebrews 4:13**

*<sup>1</sup> My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

**1 John 2:1-2**

## **Small Group Discussion Questions for the week of November 22, 2020.**

### **Icebreaker**

What do you appreciate about your small group?

### **First Impressions**

In Sunday's sermon what was most challenging, helpful, or interesting to you? Is there something that you disagreed with or were confused about?

### **Digging Deeper in the Text**

Read 1 John 1:5-2:8

1. What does John mean by his statement "God is light" (verse 5)?
2. Practically, what does it mean to "walk in the light" and not "in darkness?"
3. What hope does John give when people fail to live in light of God's love (1:9, 2:1-2)?

### **Living Out the Scriptures**

1. Being faithful is living a truth centered life. How can you grow in living a truth centered life?
2. Pray that faithful living might grow in one another.