



25 Nov – 1 Dec, 2018

Fruit of the Holy Spirit, part 1

**‘And now abide faith, hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these is love’ 1 Cor 13:13**

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

‘But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control’ Gal 5:22-23a

Love

- † Love is THE commandment
- † Love is THE virtue
- † Love is THE fruit
- † Above all, Love is God’s Name
- † Love is the ‘identity’ of God, it is not only one of His attributes

God’s love

- † God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, Who has been given to us (*Rom 5:5*)
- † In this sense, it is up to us to take action, to live Love and to help it to grow, to transmit it to others in order to show God’s love

The Name of God is Love (*1 Joh 4:8*)

God showed His love for us since the day of Creation

- † He created us in His image and likeness
- † He created everything for our sake
- † He disciplined us out of love
- † He gave us His commandments
- † He was the Good Shepherd to His people even before the coming of His Son Jesus
- † He wanted us to be His children even before the Incarnation and our adoption through His only Son
- † Most importantly, He loved us enough to design us as the temple of His Holy Spirit
- † He wants to dwell in our hearts (*Rev 3:20*)
- † The heavens and earth will disappear one day (*Rev 21:1*) but He and His love will remain in us (*Rev 21:3, Mat 28:20*)
- † This is how powerful and everlasting Love is (***1 Cor13:13***)

- † Since the Kingdom of God is among us and within us, we need to love as God loves. *'Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love' 1 Joh 4:7-8*

Love is eternal because God is eternal

- † *'And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him' 1 Joh 4:16*
- † *'Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away' (1 Cor 13:8)*
- † Everything built on love will have a strong foundation and will survive any storm

Real love is love put into practice

- † *'My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth' 1 Joh 3:18*
- † *'But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us' Rom 5:8*
- † We show our love for God in keeping His commandments of which the most important is love itself (*Joh 15:10*) in the same way that Jesus kept His Father's commands
- † *'He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him' Joh 14:21*
- † *'For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome' (1 Joh 5:3)*

Love is a decision

- † Love is about our approach to everything in our lives
- † The Love that we put in our actions needs to aim at the glory of God and not anything else
- † Loving the world shows that our love for God is lacking (*1 Joh 2:15*)
- † The lack of love leads to sin
- † On the last day, we will be rewarded or judged on how much we have lived Love in our lives
- † Everything that is void of Love cannot have any virtue
- † Even our faith and our willingness to die for Christ, if they are not through Love, they have no value

The Compassion of God for all of us

- † The Old Testament is full of references to the compassion of God the Father
- † Jesus 'had compassion' for all people that He healed through a miracle, that He fed, that He taught...

- † Jesus loves us enough to make us ‘one’ with Himself (*Joh 17:21,23; Act 9*)
- † God the Father defended many prophets in the Old Testament
- † Jesus defended many sinners as Matthew, Zacchaeus, and the woman caught in adultery

God’s Love on the Cross

- † Though we are undeserving, God attracted us to Him through His love on the Cross
- † Christ, even on the Cross, kept giving to others His love, to His persecutors, to the repentant thief (*Luk 22:32-34*), to His grieving mother, and to all humanity

Knowledge puffs up while Love builds up (*1 Cor 8:1*)

- † Love is by far superior and more edifying than all knowledge
- † When we learn how to live love, no need to worry about how to live other virtues. Other virtues will flow naturally from the fountain which is God’s love for us and in us
- † We can reach God when we have reached Love. (The last step in the Ladder of Divine Ascent)
- † At that point, there is no longer room for sin because the love of God inside of us will shine and it cannot coexist with darkness! (*2 Cor 6:14*)

Love never fails, since God is Love and God never fails

Bibliography

Pope Shenouda III. Love, The Summit of Virtues (Cairo: 1993)

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

‘Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends’ John 15:13

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord’s will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor

9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Greek Orthodox Church in prayer

<p>الصلاة الربانية أبانا الذي في السماوات ليتقدس إسمك ليأت ملكوتك لتكن مشيئتك كما في السماء كذلك على الأرض خبزنا الجوهري أعطنا اليوم واترك لنا ما علينا كما نترك نحن ليمن لنا عليه ولا تدخلنا في تجربة لكن نجنا من الشرير أمين</p>	<p>قانون الايمان أؤمن بآله واحد أب ضابط الكل خالق السماء والأرض كل ما يرى وما لا يرى وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح ابن الله الوحيد المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق مولود غير مخلوق مساوي للأب في الجوهر الذي به كان كل شيء الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا نزل من السماء وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء وتأنس وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي وتألم وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث على ما في الكتب وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الأب وأيضاً يأتي بمجد ليدين الأحياء والأموات الذي لا فناء لملكه وبالروح القدس الرب المحيي المنبثق من الأب الذي هو مع الأب والإبن مسجود له وممجّد الناطق بالأنبياء وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية وأعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا وأترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي أمين</p>
---	--