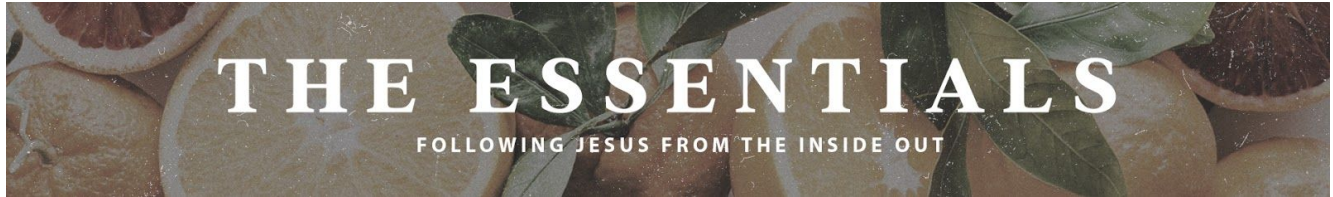


BEYOND SUNDAY: October 4, 2020



Series Page: wearepcc.com/theessentials Message: Love in a Self-Centered World

The Essentials 9-week series will focus on what it means to reflect the character of Jesus. Each week, we will wrestle with one of the essential characteristics of Jesus with the hope of it bearing fruit in our lives as we become more dependent on the Spirit to lead us. This week our focus is on the first fruit of the Spirit - love.

#1

In his message on Sunday, Gary, our lead pastor, talked about OREOs having a consistent and good brand recognition, regardless of the different ways they make them. How do you feel Christians are doing in having a consistent and good brand recognition in all their different expressions in the world?

#2

When it comes to having a consistent and good Christian brand that reflects Jesus, what does Paul, the author, say to his audience about how their brand should represent themselves? Read [Galatians 5:16-26](#). Why is reflecting Jesus' characteristics so important and how does it relate to Jesus' desire declared in [John 13:34-35](#)?

#3

In order to be one who reflects the fruit of the Spirit, we must realize there is a battle going on that hinders it. Reflect on [Galatians 5:16-23](#). Who are the opposing sides? When does this battle start and end? How aware are you of this battle inside of you? How willing are you to fight to reflect the essentials of Jesus' character on a scale of 1 (not interested) to 5 (passionate)?

#4

Christopher J.H. Wright says in [Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit](#), "*Fruit takes time, Character takes time.*" Consistency is the key to making changes in any area of our lives. When we want spiritual changes, like developing the fruits of the Spirit, we also need consistency. Over time, this involves having consistency in experiencing God's love, meditating on His Word (Bible), praying (try this [daily prayer](#)), being in accountable relationships and depending on the Spirit of God. Review [Galatians 5:16.25](#) / [John 15:5](#). If the Spirit is our power source or super power for change, how do you hear and be guided by the Spirit? Or is this a new concept to you?

#5

A key line in the Sunday message shared from the book [Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit](#) was the following: *Love is the (fruit bearing) evidence of our relationship with God.* This is a profound and convicting statement. How does

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this make you feel about yourself, your relationship with God, and your ability to reflect this essential trait of Jesus? Fill in the blank: If I am not plugged into our super-power (Holy Spirit), the essential fruit of love that God wants me to reflect in my life will look _____.

#6

Reflect on [Ephesian 5:1-2](#). If walking in the way of love of Jesus comes in the form of small and big sacrifices from us toward others, who and how is God calling you to love? And how will you let the Spirit of God guide you? [For some inspiration [view this video](#) of the Greene family (former PCCers who have relocated) shaving their heads with Erik Greene (13), who was diagnosed with stage 4 ARMS cancer on 7/28/20. Please pray for them.]

Series Daily Prayer:



THE ESSENTIALS
FOLLOWING JESUS FROM THE INSIDE OUT

John Stott's Morning Prayer

Good morning Heavenly Father, Good morning Lord Jesus, Good morning Holy Spirit.

Father, I worship you as the Creator and sustainer of the universe.

Lord Jesus, I worship you as Lord and Saviour of this world.

Holy Spirit, I worship you as the sanctifier of the people of God.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, I pray that today I might walk in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that today I might take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that you might fill me today with your presence and cause your fruit to ripen within me: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity; three persons in one God, have mercy on me. Amen

John Stott (1921-2011), evangelist and scholar
[Click to download prayer & Galatians 5:22-23](#)

Actions or Resources:

- Make space for God this week. Declare the prayer daily.
- Ask God how you can show sacrificial love to someone.
- Read Chapter 1: [Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit](#), by Christopher J.H. Wright.
- Join a 9-Week Group: [Cultivating The Essentials](#) for Men, Women, or Coed.
- Join a [House Church](#).