



SUMMERDALE YOUTH NEWS

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"THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE"

The apostle Paul wrote to the church of Galatia and said, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." The message of Galatians 5:22-23 still resounds today. If we are born of the Spirit (John 3:5, Acts 2:38, Romans 8) it is natural for us to bear the fruit of the Spirit. What does that mean? In this space today, I would like for us to consider "LOVE" as a fruit of the Spirit.

Last year I read a book entitled, "Catching Fire with the Holy Spirit" by John Smith. It was written by a friend of a friend and I was given a copy. It's a wonderful book. There are several interesting points made in the book about how the Spirit tries to guide a Christian. One part that stood out to me was how He guides us toward LOVE, joy, peace, hope, etc. I will paraphrase some of his thoughts and share some of my own revelations.

When a Christian begins to insert the word HATE into their vocabulary, especially toward another individual (even an enemy), it is evidence that their conscience is being seared (I Timothy 4:2). The Holy Spirit works alongside our conscience to move us toward the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and away from the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21). Only one has LOVE while the other has HATRED.

The greatest command for a Christian is to LOVE (Mark 12:30-31). If a Christian says "I HATE YOU" to another person, especially to a brother or sister in Christ, it is evidence of them possessing more flesh and less Spirit. God is LOVE and He cannot reside in HATE (I John 2:11, 3:15, 4:20). Instead of choosing to walk in the light of God's Spirit that person willingly chooses to surrender to the unfruitful works of darkness.

Suffice it to say we should choose our words carefully (Ephesians 4:29). We will each be judged by our words (Matthew 12:36). Let's choose LOVE, not HATE. Let's choose the light, not the darkness. Let's surrender to God, not the real enemy. May God use our words to build each other up and not destroy.

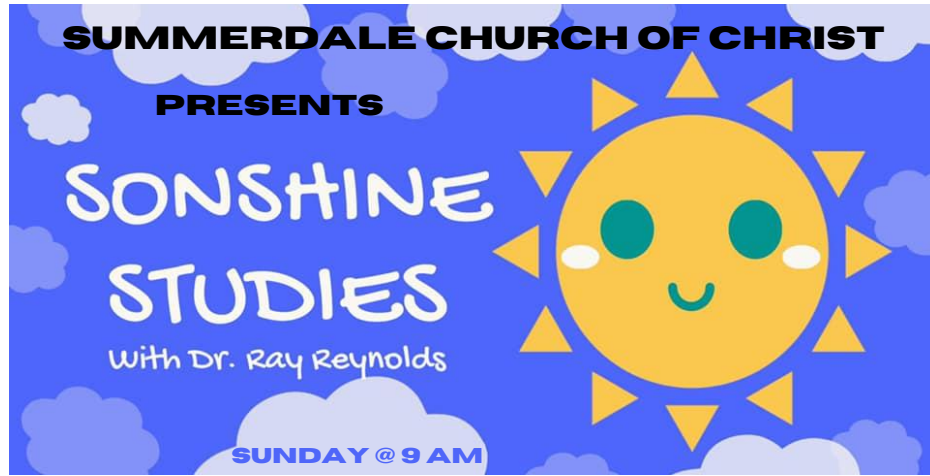
You may have noticed that I have used all caps on the words LOVE and HATE. Which was more prominent to you? I suppose it is the one that you notice the most. I pray that each of us will choose LOVE over HATE. I want to close with Paul's own words about LOVE. He said, "LOVE suffers long and is kind; LOVE does not envy; LOVE does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. LOVE never fails." (I Corinthians 13:4-7)

May God bless you and keep you! Choose LOVE.

*You are loved,
Ray*



SYG NEWS & EVENTS



The "Sunshine Studies" online series is for our children and is available online at 9 AM each Sunday morning via YouTube. It is fun for the whole family and everyone can benefit from these lessons. The studies for the next several weeks will revolve around the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). We will continue this series of Bible lessons until Sunday morning Bible classes resume at the building in the near future.

All youth and young families are invited to take part in a game night. On Friday night at 7 PM we will be eating hot ham and cheese sandwiches and playing games. Please bring your favorite finger foods or desserts and don't forget to bring your favorite family game. We will, of course, have some of the fan favorites: Scattergories, Blank Slate and Charades. This will be an evening of great fun. We will observe the rules of social distancing and masks will be provided.



We will be having a Teen Zoom Devo & Bible study on Wednesday night at 5:30 PM. The link will be provided on Facebook and Instagram. We will also talk about some of our upcoming activities for the summer. All teens are encouraged to participate and to invite friends to join us as well. Our study will be on "The Greatest Commands." We are hoping to do these every two weeks until we can assemble again.

We've got questions. You've got the answers. Don't throw us shade. It's time to spill the tea.

Each week one of our teens will be asked a series of random questions.

We call it "7 Groovy Questions." You can find it on Facebook, Instagram or YouTube. So far we have interviewed Brady Long, Sebastian Hall, Carter Long, Zane Rider, and Caryn Coxwell. Who will be next? Hayden Joiner! Follow us and watch on YouTube.



We have postponed the Awards Presentation due to COVID-19 and summer vacation. In the coming weeks we will announce a date to honor our L2L kids. Also, Junior Leaders has been put on temporary hold. We are tentatively planning to attend an L2L convention in New Orleans on August 8. Thank you to all who help L2L!

The theme of our church family for the rest of 2020 will be "Its All About the Love."

Remember what the Bible says about love: "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)



TENTATIVE YOUTH CALENDAR:

July 24 - Youth & Young Adult Game Night (7-9 PM)

August 8 - L2L Convention in New Orleans, LA

August 12 - Teen Zoom Devo & Bible Study

August 21 - Youth & Young Adult Game Night (7-9 PM)

September 13 - Gulf Coast Area-Wide



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