

# The fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-26

# God is love

1 John 4:8 – the very nature of God is love

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

Matthew 22:37-40

We take on the nature of God through the Holy Spirit – grafted onto God

# Freedom

v1 – ‘It was for freedom that Christ has set you free’

What does ‘freedom’ mean to you?

How is ‘freedom’ portrayed in films?

Freedom from:

Oppression

Slavery

The Law

Paul refers to the ‘yoke of slavery’

Christ sets us free to be our best selves

# Fruit of the Spirit

‘The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.’ (v6)

The evidence of a Christ-like character:

‘love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.’

The fruit of the Spirit is the result of our freedom

Our old nature has been ‘crucified’

We no longer need to be governed by law

# So what now?

Is this something we must wait for? Is it outside our control?

Are these characteristics just for us or are they for the community?

Old habits die hard – keep in step with the Holy Spirit