



THE  
FRUIT  
OF THE  
SPIRIT

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GALATIANS 5

**CONTEXT**



What is happening in many cases is that the church is simply cultivating at the center of its life the seeds that the dominant culture has sown in its midst. As a result, the seeds that the Spirit has sown are all but being choked out, and the fruit that is being brought to harvest has little or no likeness to the Spirit's fruit. Said another way, the church that is being cultivated in the United States looks suspiciously like the dominant culture rather than being an alternative to it.

Philip Kenneson

**LOVE IN A CULTURE OF SELF-INTEREST**



**A CULTURE OF SELF-INTEREST**

The first revolution, and the most basic and distinctive aspect of liberalism, is to base politics upon the idea of voluntarism - the unfettered and autonomous choice of individuals...What was new is that the default basis for evaluating institutions, society, affiliations, memberships, and even personal relationships became dominated by considerations of individual choice based on the calculation of individual self-interest, and without broader consideration of the impact of one's choices upon the community, one's obligations to the created order, and ultimately to God.

Patrick Deneen



# **Enlightened Self-Interest**

The Americans, on the contrary, are fond of explaining almost all the actions of their lives by the principle of interest rightly understood; they show with complacency how an enlightened regard for themselves constantly prompts them to assist each other, and inclines them willingly to sacrifice a portion of their time and property to the welfare of the state.

Alexis de Tocqueville



**“You Do You”**

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**But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.**

**2 Timothy 3:1-5**

**Homo incurvatus in se ipsem**



**A CULTURE OF SPIRIT-  
EMPOWERED LOVE**

**For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor  
uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith  
working through love.**

**Galatians 5:6**



**I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

**Galatians 2:20**

**CRUCIFORM LOVE**



The “law of Christ” is the narrative pattern of self-giving, others-regarding love of the crucified Messiah Jesus...This “law,” then, is the master story...which will also become the community’s “rule of life.”

Michael Gorman

# **Cruciform Love:**

**1. Self-Giving**

**2. Self-Sacrificing**

**3. Self-emptying**



**Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

**1 John 4:8-10**

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:3-8



# **BECOMING LOVE**

**Abide**



**I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**

**John 15:5**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-19



**Attune**

**Act**



By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18

**Forgiveness**  
**Reconciliation**  
**Sharing Jesus**  
**Sexual integrity**  
**Generosity**  
**Renouncing rights/status**  
**Encouraging others**  
**Gratitude**  
**Using our spiritual gifts**

**Prioritizing the poor at  
community meals**  
**Non-retaliation**  
**Hospitality toward  
enemies**  
**Sharing finances**  
**Restoring dignity to the  
oppressed**