

# Juicy Fruit

Long Beach Alliance Church • September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.**

**~Philippians 2:3-4 (NASB)**

## 1) Love God, Love Others

- A) In the past couple of weeks our church family has taken a closer look at Jesus Christ's command to "love God" (Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27). Loving God in our church means participating together in baptisms, communion, prayer, and biblical teaching (Acts 2:41-42).
- B) Loving God means worshipping Him actively through our actions (Romans 12:1). Worship is an active response of love to God which engages the truth of God's Word in our soul (John 4:23-24).
- C) Always attached to loving God is the second greatest commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:38; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27). All of the commands of God "hang" on these commands to "LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHERS" (Matthew 22:40).

- D) In our church family, loving others means meeting with each other in small groups to study God's Word and develop friendships which are marked by unity and compassion for the needs of others (Acts 2:45-46).

## 2) Sharing Your "Fruitfulness" With Others

- A) As already noted, part of being in our church family is participating in communion together (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:23-32). In this sense, we "feast" on Jesus Christ together, and are empowered together in unity by Jesus (John 6:51-58).
- B) As Jesus "fills our souls," He also gives every member of His church fruitful gifts to share (Romans 12:1-13). These gifts (talents, time, treasure) are not simply for yourself, but to "feed others" through active worship in service (Acts 2:44-47).
- C) While we are serving the Lord (Colossians 3:24), the Lord is also providing fruitful nourishment for His church through His own people! Service is sharing what God has provided to you with others, out of responsive love for God!

## 3) Serving The World

- A) When followers of Jesus are authentic in the way we "love God" and "love others," we gain a reputation which is respected by newcomers, and rewarded by God (2:47).
- B) This was God's design, that the church would be a fragrant community of Christ followers (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:14-16) which would serve the world (Matthew 5:43-44), and show the world Jesus Christ (John 13:35).
- C) This provides a strong foundation for serving the world, and fulfilling the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:18-20).