

# God is a Gardener

## Galatians 5:19-23

The Law is the law of love, and the core truth in verse 22 is that the single fruit of the Spirit is love, with many varieties

The Spirit is not a principle, but a Person, tending the garden of our heart

### What?

*The Spirit tends us and sows and prunes us while kindness grows*

#### Planting and pruning—

Israel was God's vineyard, and we also are His vineyard

So the Spirit is lovingly, patiently hovering over our hearts, working to produce the harvest that God desires

Vs. 20b and 21a are like weeds that will choke out the fruit

These have to be "pulled up" practically by living out the reality of having crucified the flesh

*Ephesians 4:30-31, ESV—Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice*

Notice that this is passive—the Spirit brings life and growth

There are two activities of the Spirit to produce His fruit

#### Connection with Jesus—

In explaining the parable of the seed and soils, Jesus says—

*Luke 8:15, ESV—“As for [the seed] in the good soil, they [the soil] are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience”*

So we maintain honest and good heart-soil, clinging to the seed of God's Word, for the purpose of obeying it

Jesus also explains the next activity of the Spirit—

*John 15:2, ESV—“Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit”*

When God considers we've held on to certain things too long, He allows pruning experiences into our lives

The important thing is to bear these things with patience, not growing bitter, knowing they are for our good

They produce kindness, among other things

**The Big Question—What does Paul mean when he says, “Against such things there is no law?”**

The Law is about prohibitions that only produce failure

With the Spirit, we have a Person instead prohibitions

Instead of dutifully trying to don't, don't, don't, we delightfully cooperate with the Spirit to do, do, do

### So What?

*The Spirit tends us and sows and prunes while kindness grows*

Every day we need to be aware of allowing the Spirit to do His work in us, choosing God's way, not self's way

The fruit of the Spirit is for the satisfaction of God's heart

James 1—“Receive with meekness the implanted word”

Pray, “Lord, what are you wanting to produce today?”

#### The last word—Paul (the first word for next week)

*Ephesians 4:32, ESV—Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you*

### Now What?

Find some means of exposure to the Word daily

When you go through difficult circumstances, ask the Spirit, “What are you pruning from my life?”