

CHAOS

calm in the

WEEK 4 - HOLIDAY DISAGREEMENTS

OVERVIEW

Soon we will be sitting down to a holiday meal or going to the Christmas party with family and friends. As we await those gatherings, we do so with anticipation but in some cases, dread. Relationships already strained from years of bad blood over countless grievances are at a breaking point due to irreconcilable disagreements over vaccines, masks, race, politics and ideology and all the things. How do we make it out of the holidays alive with our souls undamaged and our relationships, at least somewhat, intact? We hope and pray that the Holy Spirit brings forth his fruit in our lives.

*So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.
But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Galatians 5:16, 22-23*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read [Galatians 5:13-23](#) (click on the underlined passage to read it online). Have you ever experienced any of these results of the sinful nature at gatherings (biting, devouring, destroying, hostility, quarreling, outbursts of anger, dissension, division)? How did you respond to the situation?
2. Dave's proposal for holiday gatherings is to "shut up". What is the intended benefit of keeping our mouths shut during potentially contentious moments? Is this difficult for you to do?
3. Dave suggested that we do not need to even open our mouths to exhibit the fruits of the Spirit listed in [verses 22-23](#). Give examples of how you can show these fruits in other ways.
4. Have you experienced the fruits of the Spirit through the actions of others? What effect did that have on you, and on your family or group of neighbors/coworkers/friends?
5. How can we expect the Spirit to produce fruit in our lives - at the holidays and on a daily basis?
6. [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#) gives examples of what love is and what it is not. Do your words and actions reflect this kind of love? What could you do to remind yourself to love this way, especially during the holidays?
7. Knowing that the Spirit produces the fruit, not us, what are some practical things we can do to prepare for holiday gatherings, in addition to keeping our mouths shut?
8. After hearing several messages about this topic, do you believe that there can be "Calm in the Chaos" for your holidays this year?

RESOURCES

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