



"Cultivating Love" – Cultivate – Week 1
September 7, 2025
Sermon by Pastor Tom VanAntwerp

Group Leader Notes

This is our first week in our new series *Cultivate* as we look at what it means to live out the Christian virtues bore from a Spirit-filled life. Here we are at Kick-Off Week as we launch our Fall Ministries. We hope you had a meaningful summer filled with moments of rest, renewal, and fun. It probably went too fast but most great seasons and moments tend to move swiftly.

This year, we want to continue to grow in our discipleship together. This year we want to pray deeper, draw closer to God and with each other. And continue to take the love and goodness of Jesus to bless the world around us. As we begin, let us dedicate ourselves and this Life Group for this upcoming ministry year ... May the Lord cultivate His virtues in us.

Take Home Message: "Imaginative Gridlock Needs Prophetic Imagination."

Main Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:16-24

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

- **Q** – This text centers on the fruit of the Spirit. Before we get too far, what immediately comes to mind when you think of the fruit of the Spirit? No need to overthink it, just instinctive answers first.
- **Q** – One of Pastor Tom's key points is that there are two ways of living – "Acts of the Flesh" or "The Way of the Spirit." And they lead to either "Chaos" or "Flourishing." Let's look at the text from Galatians 5 ... what virtues do you find yourself in need to confront any chaos you have in life? What do you crave for your flourishing?
- **Q**- They key to our lives bearing such fruit is to allow our hearts to be surrendered to the Holy Spirit. That's how we cultivate the fruit of the Spirit. What do you think hinders us from living lives surrendered to the control of the Holy Spirit and what must we do to yield to the Spirit?
- **Q**- Another way that we need the Holy Spirit to be at work is throughout the issues and pain found in our society and around the globe. As we think aspirationally for others, how can the Spirit-fruit found in disciples of Jesus change our world, our community, our homes?

Let's Pray