

## Study Questions for the May 24, 2020 Sermon: “Where Do You Find Love in Your Life”

1. Pruning vines increases their fruitfulness. Easy to accept as an agricultural principle, not so easy as a life experience.
  - a. Give an example from the Bible of someone who became more fruitful (achieved more for God) when they were “pruned” (emotionally devastated, faced with a loss of resources or with being ill or disabled).
  - b. Give an example from history or personal experience of someone who became more fruitful when they were pruned.
2. If you were counseling someone who wanted to be more spiritually fruitful, what Biblical guidance would you provide?
3. Pastor Paul said (paraphrase) that 'The assignment God gives you may not be on your *to-do* list'. Can you give an example of that from the book of Exodus or Judges?
4. After telling his disciples in verse 10 to obey his Father's commandments, Jesus says in verse 11: “These things have I spoken unto you that my joy may remain in you and that your joy may be full. “ How can you reconcile Jesus' reference to joy with the fact that obeying His Father's commandments may result in loss of income or damage to relationships?
5. Memory question: If we prayerfully seek God's will, we may feel called to carry out some task for which we do not feel qualified. Pastor Paul recommended, should we find ourselves in that situation, two responses. Can you recall either?
6. In verse 15, Jesus says that His disciples are not servants, but friends. Consider the difference between servants and friends in secular life, and then state how friendship with Jesus would be different from servant-hood.
7. Application of the Sermon:
  - a. If we view “love” and “joy” through the Biblical model, and we analyze our lives and values, is there any place where our hearts are rooted in the world rather than in love for God? And if so, in what way do we need to be pruned?
  - b. What is a way that my love for God can be manifested as love for others?