

# The Fruit of the Spirit: Love

As we continue to **live and walk in the Spirit**, we will automatically bear the fruit of the Spirit. As we discussed last week, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

## What is Love?

The word love is excessively over-used in our society today.  
e.g. I'd love a nice juicy steak. I'd love to lay on the beach in Maui.

The Greeks were more selective in their use of the word love.  
There were three words translated "love" in the New Testament.

Agape, phileo and eros.

## Phileo

This describes brotherly or human love. This kind of love can start very strong, but caves in under pressure.

Phileo is based on feelings. Operating under phileo love, you can only give love to a person for whom you have some feeling or affinity. It operates in the soulish realm, not the spirit. Humanism sounds like the real thing, but ultimately, it is for man's glory and selfish in nature.

Phileo relationships are often terminated when arguments arise because phileo love is an insecure foundation for any relationship.

## Eros

Eros is the kind of love the world seems to be most familiar with. It refers to physical attraction, governed by the five senses. It is derived

from the word erotic which is sensual love and is predominantly in the physical realm.

Many relationships start out with Eros love when two people are physically attracted to each other. It can very quickly draw you into inappropriate expressions of love that end up devaluing and hurting the other party.

Eros love is based on self-gratification, so when self is not fulfilled, it ends.

Self cannot be fulfilled by Eros as we are created body, soul and spirit.

Relationships built on Agape love will always succeed. For instance, a good marriage is based on Agape love, then Phileo love, then Eros love.

Agape love exercises self-control, and is unconditional love. Which provides a healthy context for Phileo and Eros to develop and express themselves.

The kind of love the Fruit of the Spirit refers to is Agape love. It is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

### **Agape**

This is the God kind of love that promotes a kindred love among Christians 1 John 3:14 *"If we love our Christian brothers and sisters it proves that we have passed from death to eternal life."*

It is a selfless love, willing to deny itself for the benefit of the other person. This love is not an impulse from feelings. It does not always run with natural inclinations. Agape love is a deliberate choice, not based on feelings.

You don't even have to like someone to express Agape love. It is a spirit of love that comes from our Heavenly Father.

### **Application of Agape / Godly Love**

God has demonstrated His love for us, in this; ***"<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 6:8.***

Even furthermore, God is love. ***"<sup>16</sup> And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him." 1 John 4:16***

So the first fruit of the Spirit that wells up within us is godly (agape) love. It comes up out of our spirits, not from our souls / minds. It considers the wellbeing of others from an eternal perspective.

Godly love also means that we love our Heavenly Father. Jesus spoke extensively about this in John 15. Because Jesus is the true vine and we are His true branches, remaining or abiding in Him results in us bearing much fruit for Him through the Holy Spirit. ***John 15:4, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."***

Jesus demonstrated His love for the Father in that He followed only what the Father showed Him what to do. ***John 15:10, "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."***

And what is the commandment that Jesus has given to us? **John 15:12 says, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”** It is so simple. We humans over complicate EVERYTHING. God’s wisdom is incredibly simple. In fact, it is so simple that the world calls it foolishness.

### **Conclusion**

- There are 3 English definitions of love:
  - Phileo – brotherly or human love
  - Eros – physical attraction / love governed by the 5 senses
  - Agape – Godly love that is of the Father – it comes from the Spirit
- God is love
- Agape love is the natural by-product of living and walking in the Spirit
- Agape love is not a feeling, it is a choice
- We demonstrate our love for God by following His command which is to love one another as Christ has loved us
- The love of God is foolishness to the world, but in reality it is so simple that even a child can understand and follow it
- Let us walk in love for one another
- More fruit of the Spirit will well up within us as we live and walk in the Spirit