

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Please take your Bibles this morning and turn to Galatians chapter 5.
2. We are now studying verses 22-23 in our series of “Bad and Good Habits.”
3. We have already looked at “bad habits” or “bad fruit.”
4. And now we’re considering “good habits” or “good fruit.”
5. In our last two times together, we considered the phrase “the fruit of the

Spirit.”

6. It was the last part of that phrase that drew our attention into asking a few questions like “Who is the Holy Spirit?”, “Who Gets the Holy Spirit?” and What Does the Holy Spirit Do?”
7. In our first question we learned that the Holy Spirit is a Spirit, Person, and God, the third member of the Trinity.
8. In our second question, we learned that only believers get the Holy Spirit.
9. And they get Him at salvation.
10. In our third question we learned that the Holy Spirit makes us godly and that’s what we are going to see in Galatians

5:22-23.

11. Today we are going to look at the first in the list, “love,” but before we do let me make a couple observations about “fruit.”
12. As we read this phrase again, “the fruit of the Spirit,” notice that it is singular.
13. It doesn’t say “the fruits of the Spirit” as I have heard so many people say.
14. It doesn’t say “the fruits of the Spirit are,” it says, “the fruit of the Spirit is.”
15. This is one fruit.
16. Let me say something else about this metaphor of “fruit.”

17. Fruit is the product of the Holy Spirit.
18. He produces these 9 characteristics in the life of a yielded believer.
19. Unbelievers do not have the Spirit nor do they have His fruit in their lives.
20. They function in accord with the flesh and produce the deeds of the flesh mentioned in verses 19-21.
21. The Bible has much to say about fruit, which is mentioned some 106 times in the OT and 70 times in the New.
22. Even under the Covenant of law, a believer produced good fruit only by God's power, not his own.

23. “From Me comes your fruit,” the Lord declared to ancient Israel (Hos.14:8).
24. In the NT, when talking about godly activity in a believer, Scripture uses the term “fruit”.
25. For example, Hebrews 13:15 says, “Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.”
26. So praising God by being thankful is spiritual fruit.
27. 1 Corinthians 16:15 says, “Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted

themselves for ministry to the saints).”

28. In this passage, spiritual fruit is winning someone to Christ.
29. In Colossians 1:10, Paul says, “So that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”
30. Spiritual fruit here is godly work in general.
31. All of these verses are talking about action fruit.
32. Such action must come from attitude fruit and that’s what Galatians 5:22-23

addresses.

33. Let's begin with the first in the list:

## **LESSON**

### **I. LOVE (v.22a)**

#### **A. Love is Interlinked to the Other Eight**

1. You cannot have one without the other
2. You don't get love but have no joy
3. You don't get peace but need love
4. They are all connected to each other

#### **B. Love is First in the List**

1. That's because it is the greatest

2. 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, “But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
3. That’s also because it is to dominate our lives and everything we do
4. Romans 5:5 (NASB) says, “and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

### C. Love Contrasts the Deeds of the Flesh

1. Because it is selfless (Rom.12)
  - a) It abhors what is evil (v.9)
  - b) It clings to what is good (v.9)



- c) It is devoted to one another in brotherly love (v.10)
- d) It gives preference to one another in honor (v.10)
- e) It doesn't lag behind in diligence (v.11)
- f) It is fervent in spirit (v.11)
- g) It serves the Lord (v.11)
- h) It rejoices in hope (v.12)
- i) It perseveres in tribulation (v.12)
- j) It is devoted to prayer (v.12)
- k) It contributes to the needs of the saints (v.13)
- l) It practices hospitality (v.13)
- m) It blesses and doesn't curse (v.14)
- n) It rejoices with those who rejoice and weeps with those who weep (v.15)

- o) It is of the same mind toward one another (v.16)
- p) It is not haughty in mind (v.17)
- q) It associates with the lowly (v.17)
- r) It is not wise in its own estimation (v.17)
- s) It never pays back evil for evil (v.17)
- t) It respects what is right in the sight of all men (v.17)
- u) It is at peace with all men (v.18)
- v) It never takes vengeance (v.19)
- w) It is not overcome by evil but overcomes evil with good (v.21)

2. In the words of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, “4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its

own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

One commentator says, “In these verses, the fullness of love is described, in each case by what love does. Love is action, not abstraction. Positively, love is patient with people and gracious to them with generosity. Negatively, love never envies, or brags, or is arrogant, since that is the opposite of selfless service to others. Never rude or overbearing, love never wants its own way, is not irritated or angered in personal offense, and finds no pleasure in someone else’s sin, even the sin of an enemy. On the

positive side again, love is devoted to truth in everything. With regard to “all things” within God’s righteous and gracious will, love protects, believes, hopes, and endures what others reject.” (MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. [\*The MacArthur Study Bible\*](#). electronic ed.)

3. Romans 15:3 says, “For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME.”
4. The flesh is not selfless and what it manifests reveals that.
5. Love gives; the flesh takes

6. Love has no conditions; the flesh always has a selfish motive
7. The love the Holy Spirit gives is supernatural as are the other 8
8. It is both given and produced
  - a) Romans 5:5 says it is given
  - b) Galatians 5:22 says it is produced in the life of the believer who “walks by the Spirit” (v.16)

So how do you define love?

“The ancient Greeks called love “the madness of the gods.” Modern psychologists define it as it the strong desire for emotional union with another

person. But what, actually, is love. It means so many different things to different people. Songwriters have described it, "Whenever you're near, I hear a symphony." Shakespear said, "Love is blind and lovers cannot see." Aristotle said, "Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies."

<https://theanatomyoflove.com/what-is-love/what-is-love>).

The American Heritage Dictionary defines love as "an intense affection for another person based on familial or personal ties".

(<http://www.allaboutgod.com/god-is-love.htm>).

So the world defines it as conditional.

The Bible uses several different words for “love” in the Hebrew and Greek, interchanging them depending on context.

Some of these words mean “affectionate love”; others indicate “friendship”; and still others, “erotic, sexual love.”

There is also a distinct word for the type of love that God displays. In the Greek, this word is *agape*.”

(<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-love.html>).

John MacArthur says, “*Agapē* love is active, not abstract or passive. It does not simply feel patient, it practices patience. It does not simply have kind feelings, it does kind things. It does not

simply recognize the truth, it rejoices in the truth. Love is fully love only when it acts (cf. 1 John 3:18).” ([1 Corinthians](#). MacArthur New Testament Commentary).

So what does it mean that the fruit of the Spirit is love in the life of the believer?

It means now we have the power to live this way.

Since God the Holy Spirit has lavished the love of God in our hearts, we have the capacity to demonstrate agape love...to love unconditionally.

That means we are able to love others the way that God loves us.



We are able to love the family of God (1 Peter 2:17).

We are able to love our enemies—that is, we are to actively seek what is best for them (Matthew 5:44).

Husbands are able to love their wives as Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:25).

All of this happens as a result of walking in the Spirit (Gal.5:16) or being “filled with the Spirit” (Eph.5:18).

## **CONCLUSION**

1. So what about you?
2. Do you see this in your life?

3. I'm not talking about perfection but direction.
4. This is only possible by a relationship with Jesus Christ.
5. And that too is a work of the Spirit.
6. Have you yielded to Him for salvation?
7. If you haven't, will you?
8. He came to testify about Jesus.
9. He is also in your life if you're a believer to lead you in obedience to Christ.
10. Let's pray.