



LOVE





Core Truth: God gives LOVE!

“Do everything in love.” 1 Corinthians 16:14



The first Fruit of the Spirit that God gives to us is love. We hear this word quite frequently. We love people, things, and places. But God calls us to do everything in love. We also know that God is love (1 John 4:16). To do everything in love means our words, thoughts, and actions should reflect the love that God has for us.

Our verse tells us to do everything in love... that also means towards everyone: friends, family, people you may not like. We are called to treat everyone with love like God does. This verse does not exclude. Love here is talking about a Godly love. Godly love is a love that is patient, kind, and never ending. This is the kind of love we are called to act in.

We can do this because God gives us love through the fruit of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help you to do everything in love, just like we are called to do in 1 Corinthians 16:14.

God gives LOVE!

Let's Talk About It!

How do we know God loves us?

- He sent His Son for us.
- He created the world for us.
- He is there for us every hour of every day.

Apply It!

How can we show God's love to others?

- Praying for others.
- Being kind to others.
- Helping out in times of need.

Prayer

Dear God,

We thank You for Your love. We thank You that You are LOVE in its purest form. Thank You for teaching us that there is no greater love than the love Jesus showed to us when he laid his life down for us. Help us to show Your love to others.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

~ Rebecca Robertson Holloway

Hashtag—Love

#thegreatestofthese

#loveispatient

#loveiskind

#loveoneanother

#loveGod

#lovepeople

#loveyourneighbor

#loveyourenemies

#Godislove

#Godsolovedtheworld

#possiblebytheHolySpirit

#agape

#lovebearsallthings

#loveneverfails

#loveyourmuslimneighbor

#loveyourgayneighbor

#loveyourrepublicanneighbor

#loveyourdemocraticneighbor

#whenthemoonhitsyoureyelikeabigpizzapiethatsamore

(Just checking to see if you're reading the whole list)

#loveyourimmigrantneighbor

#loveblackpeople

#lovewhitepeople

#loveasianpeople

#lovehispanicpeople

#loveeuropeans

#lovemiddleeasternpeople

#loveeveryoneelse

#lovesomeonewhoisdifficulttolove



Cinderella

PHOTOGRAPHY

And the Fruit of the Spirit is Love -

It is by no accident that the first in the list of Fruit of the Spirit is Love. When the disciples asked Jesus "What is the Greatest of the Commandments," He responded: 'Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your strength and with all your might. (Matthew 22:37) And the second is like unto the first - Love your neighbor as yourself.' (Matthew 22:39) Love is of the Spirit. This is the Spirit every Christian receives when upon confession of faith in Jesus, the Christ, as Lord and Savior, is imparted into their soul.

So, the thought appeared on my mind - why does Paul state the Fruit (singular) and proceed to list nine attributes, OR is it LOVE and eight descriptors of the Fruit of the Greatest Commandment? Are the joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control adjectives which explain more deeply or explicitly LOVE? Each of these attributes, if you will, could have, should have been translated with a verb - the 'simple' verb is, i.e. LOVE is joy; LOVE is peace and so on. This expands the understanding depth of LOVE and the Fruit attribute is singular.

In the Greek there are four words used in the New Testament for 'love.' The Fruit 'love' here is *agape*. The Greek words translated 'love' in the New Testament writings are *eros* (romantic, passionate love), *philia* (intimate, authentic friendship), *storage* (affectionate, familial affection, and *agape* (love for everyone, God's love for man and man's love for God). [The Four Loves: C. S. Lewis]. This descriptive word, *agape*, appears more than 200 times in the New Testament. Jesus places a cornerstone of its importance when He makes it central in His "New Commandment." He states (John 13:34-35 NASB) "A new commandment I give to you, that you

love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Jesus, without reservation, willingly gave His life for our salvation, our restoration to His Father.

This *agape* Fruit

Thinking of the Fruit LOVE: "LOVE is" broadens the meaning and life application. Pondering on this definitely deepens one's appreciation. However, checking the Greek original text - joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are also nouns and not adjectives or meant to be. Perhaps if we look at these as a sub-set of nouns we can reach for a clearer awareness of each attribute. "Love is the key. Joy is love singing. Peace is love resting. Long-suffering is love enduring. Kindness is love's touch. Goodness is love's character. Faithfulness is love's habit. Gentleness is love's self-forgetfulness. Self-control is love holding the reins." (D. G. Barnhouse)

~ Steve Hawk

*[Jesus said,] "By this all people will know
that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another."*

John 13:35



Cinderella
PHOTOGRAPHY

☺ If I speak the languages of men and of angels, but do not have love, I am a sounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so that I can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I donate all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ☺

☺ Love is patient; love is kind. Love does not envy; is not boastful; is not conceited; does not act improperly; is not selfish; is not provoked; does not keep a record of wrongs; finds no joy in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for languages, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ☺

☺ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.

When I became a man, I put aside childish things. For now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known.)

~ Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.)

~ The Apostle Paul

(from his first letter to the church in Corinth)

A Facebook Post

It seems everyone has their own point of view or words of wisdom that they want to impart on the current events of our nation today to defend where they stand on their side of the issue.

I have no delusions of self-importance worthy of anyone caring about my point of view nor wise enough for anyone to care about my advice.

I want my friends to know where I stand because I think folks want to be heard, so....

I'm sad that a man lost his life at the knee of a system that is there "To protect and serve." It failed him. I'm sad that a man got shot while jogging down the street just because "he didn't look like he belonged there." I'm sad that my black friends fear for their sons and husbands and brothers if they get pulled over by police.

I'm sad when all police get attacked because of the actions of a few. I'm sad that they get screamed at for doing their jobs. I'm sad when they get attacked while doing their jobs. I'm sad because their families worry every time they put on the uniform, will they come back home ok.

You see I'm just ordinary guy from rural America. I have friends who are police and I have friends of all colors, sexual orientations and beliefs. I am a self-proclaimed red neck!! I like guns, I like hunting, swimming in creeks, mud bogs, raising cows, dipping snuff and riding around in an old truck. They don't get much redder than I.

But I love people.

So to my police friends, I love you and I pray for you and your families.

To my black friends, I love you and your families. I pray for you all as well. I pray for my understanding of what you live through. I pray I am a

good listener so I may hear what you have to say. I pray when we come in contact that when I walk away you know I care. I hope you know I hear you and I'm frustrated too.

All I know I can do is love you, pray for you, and care for you – so I will do that.

Let's let 1 Corinthians chapter 13 be our guide.

~ Chris Lewis



Two Love Haiku

Love

no power in me
enemies, strangers.... people
Holy Spirit come!

~ RLL

Colors

black, white, brown, yellow, red
who is my neighbor today
love God – love people

~ RLL

Agape Love

In the list of spiritual fruit found in Galatians, the first fruit mentioned is Love. The Greek word used here is Agape. This word is often translated as a kind of love that is unconditional and focused on action as opposed to feeling. However, the word Agape is also translated as a meal often shared by Christians. We see this translation of the word in Jude, verse 12, in which Jude warns his readers of those hiding their true intentions whilst at their “Love Feasts” (ESV).

The most interesting part of this translation is not so much the verse it is attached to, but rather the invocation it lends to our view of God’s love. God’s Agape love for us is one that is not only expressed in word, but it invites us to join in a feast. His love gives us a seat at the table. So, when Paul tells us that Agape love is a fruit of our regenerate state, it is more than deep affection. Our hearts should be moved to offer even our enemies a seat at our “love feasts.”

~ Seth Devine

The Top Bun

I am a strong believer that no word in scripture was placed by coincidence. For this reason, I believe that there is something important to glean from the fact that when Paul lists the fruits of the spirit in Galatians, he begins with love. Love is the umbrella under which the other fruits mature. Love is the top bun on the vegan hamburger of Christian living. Perhaps my favorite way of looking at it is this— Love is the roof which covers and protects all other fruits.

Imagine, if you will, that each fruit of the spirit represents a room in the house of Christian regeneration. Love is the roof that covers all these rooms. Without love, the contents of each room would be left open to the elements (or the attacks of the enemy) and would be virtually without purpose. However, once under the cover of Love, all that the Spirit produces inside of the Christian is full of life and motivation. Like Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:3, “if I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.” (ESV)

~ Seth Devine



Lyndel
photography

Papa and Malachi
Vanderbilt Children's Hospital

His Love

The Love of Jesus is tried and true. He has no conditions for loving me and loving you.

His love has no boundaries and will not grow stale, as His love for us, will never fail.

Christ willingly and sacrificially came, to die for our sins, yes, He even knows your name.

He is faithful and forever will be, His love unconditional, for you, and for me.

The weight of all our sin, He gracefully bore, even to the end, as He said, sin no more.

His love will not break, it will not bend. His faithful love, it knows no end.

Christ died, to set us free, and now sits at the right hand of the Father, for you, and for me.

We can never fathom the depths of His love, but it is as graceful and peaceful, just like a dove.

We are all made in the image of God, His creation, His bride. And one day, we will be, by His side.

As Christ hung on that tree, His thoughts were for you and for me.

Let us never take for granted His unconditional love, as He looks down upon us, from above.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 - ESV

~ Brian Phelps



Psalm 8:2 NIrV You have made sure that children and infants praise you.

Calli Smith used her photography skills to beautifully show the Fruit of the Spirit through the likeness of a child. We'll end each chapter with a Psalm 8:2 image.

