



# World Christian Fellowship

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## Galatians

### Lesson 51 – Fruit of the Spirit

#### Love

**Galatians 5:22-23**, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

#### **Concept:**

First let us define the concept of love from a Biblical standpoint. Then, we will look into the details of what are the actions of love.

We use the word love very commonly for everything, but the Greek language has a way of making those fine distinctions by a word.

I love my mummy,  
I love pizza,  
I love briyani,  
I love dosa,  
I love ice cream,  
I love my dog,  
I love God.

In the Greek language there are basically four words that are used to denote "love" in different ways or relationships.

Greek words for LOVE

## "EROS"

This word does not appear in the Scriptures but was used much among the Greek speaking world. This word translated into English as Erotic. The idea is that of sexual desire, passion, lust for another, etc.

## "STORGE"

This word is used in the Bible but is combined with other terms to show its intended concept. It is found in the following passages:

## "ASTORGOUS"

"Without natural affection."

**Romans 1:31**, *undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;*

**2 Timothy 3:3**, *unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,*

Families should have a natural "affection" for one another. When they do not, it is a "sin" for which the Gentile world was condemned.

## **"PHILOSTORGOS"**

"Kindly affectioned"

**Romans 12:10**, *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another;*

Since we are brothers and sisters in Christ, we should have or show a natural affection to one another.

## **"PHILEO"**

This word is used over 20 times in the New Testament. It carries with it the concept of a warm, tender, intimate relationship with another human being.

The words: "friend" or "companion" identifies with this Greek word. It denotes the closeness between human beings.

David and Jonathan's relationship illustrates this concept.

**2 Samuel 1:26**, *I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women.*

Jesus' relationship with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha illustrates this concept.

**John 11:3**, *Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."*

In Romans 12:10, two words are combined that gives an idea of the closeness of this relationship: "brotherly love" (Phila-delphia). This kind of affection or love can be between any other human being that we have

drawn close unto—but not indicating "eros" nor necessarily "storge." This love is prompted by the mind and the emotions and usually denotes an attachment with another person.

## "AGAPE"

This word is used over 100 times in the New Testament. This word does not necessarily require an emotional, affectionate, or passionate response to another.

This love is more from the mind, reason, or intelligence. It is a concern for the well-being of another person even if he is your enemy.

Jesus said we were to "love" (agape) our enemies.

**Matthew 5:43-44**, *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.'<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you*

Jesus is showing that we can exercise our will to seek the good for another person no matter what he has done.

Jesus illustrated this in the Matthew 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

Jesus love the human beings who were in rebellion to God by went into the extent of giving up His own life to redeem them. But His strong rebukes were obviously given to these religious leaders to try to awaken them to their doomed condition and their need of immediate repentance. He ended the chapter with a compassionate picture of God's love for them illustrated by a "mother hen"

**Matthew 23:37-39**, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! <sup>38</sup>See! Your house is left to you desolate; <sup>39</sup>for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ”*

When the Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that they were carnal, it was not because he hated them, but rather that he loved (agape) them!

**2 Corinthians 12:15**, *And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.*

## The Highest Concept of Love

Agape is Godly love!

There is no higher concept of love than this. God's love for His creatures, even though undeserved, was freely offered to all. Jesus showed the importance of this concept of love when he pointed out what the two greatest commands were:

1. Love God with our all your mind, soul, and heart.
2. Love our neighbor as ourselves.

**Matthew 22:37-39**, *Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”<sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’*

Then, He added something that is very important!

**Matthew 22:40**, *On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

Jesus also stated this in another way.

**John 14:15**, *If you love Me, keep My commandments.*

The Apostle Paul expressed it wonderfully.

**Romans 13:10**, *Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.*

Love causes us to do lose our physical life for the sake of our brothers.

**1 John 3:16**, *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.* Abraham sets an example of "agape" when he started on the journey to offer his son as a sacrifice unto God.

This was not his idea, but God's!

His love (agape) for God was so strong that he was determined to be obedient to God in the face of what all would say was "far out!" Yet, he and his son made the journey to Mount Moriah.

When Isaac asked his father where the sacrificial lamb was, you know that the fatherly emotions must have been strong when he said: "God will provide!"

When the altar was prepared, Isaac knew then that he was to be the sacrificial lamb. The example of his father must have given him strength to also be obedient to his father as Abraham was to the heavenly Father.

When Abraham raised his hand to strike the blow, the Angel of the Lord stayed his hand, for he had proven his love to the Father.

Abraham had to control the emotional love of "**storge**" (family affections) and "**phileo**" (closeness to his son) in order to be obedient to God.

What an example of "agape" for us to follow!

**Summary of the concept:**

God wants us to love our family and to show brotherly love and friendship to those about us; but these are not to override our love for Him.

God must come first and foremost in our lives if we are to be saved eternally.

**Matthew 16:24-25**, *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*

Obedience from our hearts and minds to do the will of God is our way of clearly saying to God that I love and honour you with my life.

**1 John 2:5**, *But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.*

The Apostle Paul finish it beautifully in

**1 Corinthians 13:13**, *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

## How the fruit of love expressed?

The life before us, we are going to live once here,  
What is the supreme good to which we may devote our life?  
What is the noblest object to seek after and to attain unto?

God says that LOVE is the supreme thing!

**1 Corinthians 13:13**, *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

**1 Peter 4:8**, *And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."*

**Romans 13:10**, *Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.*

The results of Love bear testimony to its greatness!

It changes society for the better.

It makes better citizens, workers, fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters.

It helps to keep down evil and brings happiness and contentment to mankind, etc.

## What love will do?

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**, *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.*

### 1. Love is Patient.

“Love suffers long.” “Love is slow to lose patience.”

Love is passive, waiting, calm, and understanding.

In society, we encounter many occasions of irritation, conflicts of disposition and bad habits. This is also true in the family, as well as in the church.

Impatience and irritability are among the most common problems we have. Forbearance, tolerance, patience is greatly needed to overcome them.

To follow Christ, we must be willing to suffer, bear up under, and endure things. Love enables us to suffer long under

provocation and injury. Love helps us to bear burdens that others may be freed from such.

## **2. Love is Kind.**

Love looks for ways of being constructive, useful, profitable, and encouraging to others.

Mark's Gospel pictures Christ as busily engaged in doing good for people. His life was filled with kind deeds and a sympathetic heart.

### **The Golden Rule!**

**Matthew 7:12**, *Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

It is doing kind deeds to others—because we would enjoy those same things ourselves.

It is important to do good deeds for the poor and needy where it is easy.

## **3. Love is Generous.**

“Love envies not.” “Love never boils with jealousy.”

Love is being generous hearted to others. This is Love in competition with others. Any work that we try to do, there will be others doing the same thing and maybe even better.

Love helps us to rejoice with them—not envy them. Envy is generally defined as:

- a) A feeling of ill-will to those who are in the same kind of work as we.
- b) Pain at the sight of superior excellence in another.
- c) Discontent at one's own condition in comparison to others.
- d) It is jealousy of others' honour or success.
- e) It is to harbor hard feelings toward those used more than we.
- f) It is to have bad feelings when given a lesser important job.

Envy can reveal that we have selfishness in our hearts, or malice, hatred, or strife.

Envy can be a main cause of division in the home or church.

#### **4. Love is Humble.**

“Love vaunts not itself, is not puffed up.”

Love is not arrogant, conceited and does not put on airs, nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.

This is Love hiding itself!

It does not do good works to be seen of men, but rather to be seen of God.

It does not seek to win praise or applaud.

It is not a “show off,” nor a braggart.

Love is not pretentious or arrogant, nor does it have a mind full of itself.

**5. Love is Courteous.**

“Love does not behave itself unseemly.”

Love is not rude, unmannerly, nor is it indecent.

The church at Corinth had all kinds of unseemly behaviour. They were using their gifts without concern for other people. They were elevating men beyond what they should have. They were wrangling over possession of spiritual gifts. They were guilty of division, immorality, going to Law with brother, etc.

Love causes our behavior to be very fitting for the occasion. This is love acting in society. It is courtesy in little things. It is to be considerate of others their feelings, wishes, well-being, etc.

**6. Love is Unselfish.**

“Seeks not her own.”

Love does not insist on its own way. It does not insist on its rights. It is never self-seeking, nor does it pursue selfish aims. Selfishness is at the root of most of our problems in life.

Most sin can be attributed to seeking for self, rather than for others.

**1 Corinthians 10:24, & 33,**

*<sup>24</sup>Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.*

*<sup>33</sup> just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.*

Love helps us to become another person centered, rather than self-centered.

There is no real happiness in having and getting—it is only in giving!

**7. Love has a good Temper.**

“Not easily provoked.”

Love does not bear malice toward others, nor is it quick to take offense, or to be irritated, or become resentful or touchy.

The elder brother in the story of the “Prodigal Son” illustrates this disposition. (Luke 15). Love is needed to control such actions towards others.

**8. Love is Guileless.**

“Love thinks no evil.”

Love does not keep score of wrongs, nor does it keep account of evil.

Love is what the overly suspicious person needs. Guilelessness is one secret of personal influence. The reason is that they believe in you. In an atmosphere of suspicion men shrivel up.

In an atmosphere of faith and trust men expand and find encouragement.

So, Love thinks the best of people.

It does not impute bad motives to others.

It sees the bright side of things.

It puts the best construction on others' actions.

Love is forgiving and does not hold a grudge. Many people are unhappy and are unable to get along with others because they keep score.

#### **9. Love is Sincere.**

“Love rejoices not in iniquity but rejoices in the truth.”

Love takes no pleasure in others' wrong doings; it does not gloat over other men's sins.

It is never glad when others go wrong. Rather, it rejoices in the victory of truth in a person's life.

It joyfully sides with truth. It is always glad when truth prevails. Love does not take pleasure in people who sin, nor in those who fall into sin. It does not like to expose the weakness of others or make “capitol” out of other's faults. It does not rejoice in error, but accepts, keeps, and upholds truth. It also rejoices when truth triumphs in the lives of others.

**10. Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things.**

Love can overlook the faults of others. It wards off the insults and injuries of others. It can bear up under many things. Love is always eager to believe the best about others. There is no end to its trust in others. Love makes our hope strong that can keep us steadfast, faithful, and stable. Love gives us endurance under all kinds of undesirable circumstances.

**11. Love never fails.**

All else will come to an end, but not love. It is the ever-enduring quality of God Himself.

## **Conclusion**

What a challenge we have?

What a life to be lived?

The supreme goal or purpose in our life is to have and express the Love of God towards God and others.

**1 John 4:8**, *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

We have many opportunities each day to learn.

The world is not a playground, but a school room.

Life is not a holiday, but a means to an education.

One eternal lesson to be learned and learned well is ***HOW TO LOVE LIKE GOD!***

This is a "fruit of the Spirit of God!"