



How to be a Fruitful Christian Series (Part 1)

Galatians 5:16-22

“The Fruit of the Spirit is Love!”

I) Spirit vs. Flesh (v16-18)

(v16-17) *Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh* – All believers have the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit (cf. Jn. 3:3-6; 14:Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20) as the personal power (Acts 1:8) for living to please God.

- Jesus said the Holy Spirit:

(1) *Is the Spirit of truth and will reside in us (John 14:16-18);*

(2) *Will teach us all things (John 14:26);*

(3) *The Helper will testify of Jesus in our lives making us witnesses of Christ (John 15:26-27);*

(4) *The Helper will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:7-11);*

(5) *The Helper will tell us things to come and glorify Jesus! (John 15:13-14).*

The form of the Greek verb translated “walk” indicates continuous action, or a habitual lifestyle. Walking also implies progress; as a believer submits to the Spirit’s control—in obedience to the simple commands of Scripture—he or she grows in the life of Christ (Eph. 5:18; Col. 3:16).

(v19-21) The *works of the flesh* includes the physical body, the mind, will, and emotions, which are all subject to sin.

- Now the works of the flesh are evident which are:

Adultery – Is the willful violation of the marriage contract by either of the parties through sexual intercourse with a third party.

Fornication - Refers to all illicit sexual activity, including (but not limited to) adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, bestiality, incest, and prostitution.

Uncleanness - Moral corruption and immorality.

Lewdness - Unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence.

Sorcery – Speaks of mood and mind-altering drugs, as well as the occult, witchcraft, and magic.

Hatred - To be hostile or to have animosity toward someone; to dislike intensely.

Contentions - To dispute; to fight; to debate; to argue.

Jealousies - Suspicious or fearful of being replaced by a rival; resentful or bitter in rivalry; demanding exclusive love.

Outbursts of wrath - Explosive violent anger or fury.

Selfish ambitions - All aspects of life are motivated for oneself.

Dissensions- A continual difference of opinion, one that stirs up strife and causes discord.

Heresies - A belief in conflict or contrary to sound Biblical doctrine.

Envy - A feeling of discontent or resentment for someone else, his or her possessions or advantages.

Murders - The unlawful killing of another with premeditated malice.

Drunkenness - Drinking alcohol to excess, causing poor judgment, immoral behavior, a violent nature, and foolish character.

Revelries - Probably a specific reference to the orgies that characterized pagan, idolatrous worship.

- **Notice the judgment, “those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God”** – The key word is **“practice,”** this Greek verb describes continual, habitual action. Believers can commit these sins and do at times, but those people whose basic character is summed up in the uninterrupted and unrepentant practice of them cannot belong to God and **will not inherit the kingdom of God**.

1 John 3:7-9 says, Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins (this phrase means “who habitually practice sin”) is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin (this phrase speaks of not continuing in sinful practices), because he has been born of God.

II) The Fruit of the Spirit is LOVE! (v22-23)

Let’s define Biblical “love”- There are four different Greek words for our English word love:

#1 - Storge- This love has its basis in one’s nature, a natural affection or obligation. It is a natural movement of the soul for husband, wife, child or dog. It is quiet, abiding feeling within a person that rests on something close to them and that they feel good about.

#2 - Eros- This love is erotic love. Eros is a love of passion, an overmastering passion that seizes and absorbs itself into the mind. It is a love that is an emotional involvement based on body chemistry. The basic idea of the love is self-satisfaction. Though “eros” is directed towards another, it actual has self in mind. For example, “I love you because you make me happy.” The foundation of this type of love is some characteristic in the other person, which pleases you. If the characteristic would cease to exist, the reason of the love would be gone, the result, “I don’t love you anymore.” “Eros” looks for what it can receive. If it does give, it gives in order to receive. If it fails to get what it wants or expects, bitterness or resentment could develop. The philosophy of “eros” is that being loved depends on being attractive in some way to another person. Because of this dependency, “eros” would be considered a conditional type of love.

#3 - Phileo- is a companionable love. This love speaks of affection, fondness, or liking. Kenneth Wuest, the Greek Scholar, says, “It is a love that is called out of one’s heart as a response to the pleasure one takes in a person or object. “Phileo” is a love that responds to kindness, appreciation, or love. It involves giving as well as receiving; but when it is greatly strained, it can collapse in a crisis. This love is called out of one’s heart by qualities in another.

#4 - Agape- Is called out of one's heart by the preciousness of the object loved. It is a love of esteem, of evaluation. It has the idea of prizing. It is the noblest word for love in the Greek language. "Agape" is not kindled by the merit of worth of its object, but it originates in its own God-given nature. God is love. It delights in giving. This love keeps on loving even when the loved one is unresponsive, unkind, unlovable, and unworthy. It is unconditional love. "Agape" desires only the good of the one loved. It is a consuming passion for the well being of others. There are only a few known occurrences of this word for love outside of the Bible. In other words, this word was not used very often in extra-biblical writings. It is used approximately three hundred and twenty times in the New Testament. A word to the wise, "We are to worship God, love people and use things, but too often we use people, love self, and worship things."

Porter Barrington, a Bible teacher wrote that from the root of LOVE everything else will follow, observe: JOY is love's strength. PEACE is love's security. LONGSUFFERING is love's patience. KINDNESS is love's conduct. GOODNESS is love's character. FAITHFULNESS is love's confidence. GENTLENESS is love's humility. SELF CONTROL is love's victory.

Samuel Chadwick writes, "The fruit of the Spirit is an affectionate, lovable disposition; a radiant spirit and a cheerful temper; a tranquil mind and a quiet manner; a forbearing patience in provoking circumstances and with trying people; a sympathetic insight and tactful helpfulness; generous judgment and a big-souled charity; loyalty and reliableness under all things self-mastered and self-controlled, which is the final mark of perfection."

III) How to bear the fruit of LOVE:

- Here are four simple steps to love one another with God's love:

#1 - Love's Life! - Follow the Master's instructions in John 15:9-17- His life becomes our love!

- True love must be manifested - 1 John 2:3-6- Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

#2 - Love's Obedience! - Love is a Commandment - Matthew 22:34-40 (God first, then one another!)

- Love is the Proof of Discipleship! - John 13:34-35 - (Study to love.)

#3 - Love's Voice! (Sloppy Agape) -- Love is Sincere- Rom 12:9-14- Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

- Live to love. Love is full of ACTION! There's Love Talk - Song of Solomon 4:1-7- Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! You have dove's eyes behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats, going down from Mount Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep, which have come up from the washing, every one of which bears twins, and none is barren among them. Your lips are like a strand of scarlet, and your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like a piece of pomegranate. Your neck is like the tower of David, built for an armory, on which hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men. Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, which feed among the lilies. Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of frankincense. You are all fair, my love, and there is no spot in you.

#4 – Love’s Endurance! - Love is Abounding - 1 Thess 3:12-13 - *And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. (Give love top priority—take it to the mountaintop!)*

- Love is Fervent- 1 Peter 1:22-23- *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever (Don’t quit on love!)*

– Stir up love - Heb 10:24-25 - *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Let’s read **1 Corinthians ch. 13** (Love’s exercise program- Work out daily with verses 4-8.)



HOW'S YOUR LOVE LIFE IN CHRIST?

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

(1 Cor 13:4-8)

> DAILY "LOVE" CHECKLIST: Y= Yes N=No (Practice this for four weeks!)

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Were you patient?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Were you kind?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Were you jealous?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Were you bragging?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Were you arrogant?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Were you rude?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Were you selfish?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Were you easily provoked?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Are you holding a grudge?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Do you rejoice in iniquity?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Do rejoice in the truth?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Do you bear, believe, hope, & endure in all things?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___

Pray, obey and God will bless YOU!

"Love Never Fails!"