

One Step to Freedom
Chapter 6: The Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 1
Love

“*But the fruit of the Spirit is love ...*” (Galatians 5:22a).

Throughout the Bible there are references to the term “bearing fruit,” referring to the evidence of your faith in Christ and your faithfulness to God. Both non-believers and believers alike will observe your profession of faith. It has been said that the greatest evidence for Christianity is Christians themselves. As Christians, we need to bear fruit to glorify our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The first fruit that proves our faith in Christ is love. In the original Greek, the word for love in Galatians 5:22 is *agape*. There are two other primary words in the New Testament for love: *phileo*, which means tender affection; and *eros*, which means sexual love. A good definition for *agape* would be divine love. You cannot have *agape* love without God. *Agape* is used to describe a love far greater than emotions and physical attraction. *Agape* is an unconditional love that our perfect loving God has towards us.

Examples of *Agape* love:

1. John 3:16—God’s love for us that He gave His only Son to die in our place.
2. John 15:13—Jesus’ love for us that He laid down His life for us.
3. Romans 5:5—God gives us His Holy Spirit to live within us.
4. John 17:26 —Jesus gives us His love to give to others.

Jesus desires for all believers to know and experience the same deep love that He has with His Father (Hebrews 13:8). We have the opportunity to experience this love every day as we wake up with the Holy Spirit in our hearts. To experience the power of this love in our lives every day, we need to seek God first thing in the morning and ask Him to pour out *agape* love in our hearts so that we can better love Him and those around us.

The greatest evidence that a person is a Christian is a visible *agape* love in action. It is this kind of love that brings dynamic power to a believer’s life and puts them in a place where God can use them. Pray daily and ask God to pour out this love by His Spirit into your life.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13 and write the qualities of *agape* love.

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2. In John 3:16, how did God the Father show His love for us?

3. In John 15:13, how did Jesus, God the Son, show His love for us?

4. According to Romans 5:5, what has God poured into our hearts?

5. Read John 17:26. What did Jesus ask the Father to give us?

6. Does Jesus still want us to have divine *agape* love today? (Read Hebrews 13:8.)

7. Referring to Luke 11:13, what should we pray for?

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