



The Fruit of the Spirit #1 = LOVE

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Introduction: Paul boldly urges the churches of Galatia to walk by the Spirit. He warns them about the works of the flesh and then identifies the fruit of the Spirit. Let's consider some things about love

Discussion:

I. Love Is Essential For Genuine Christianity

I **Corinthians 13:1-3** says, "I may speak in different languages of people or even angels. But if I do not have love, I am only a noisy bell or a crashing cymbal. I may have the gift of prophecy. I may understand all the secret things of God and have all knowledge, and I may have faith so great I can move mountains. But even with all these things, if I do not have love, then I am nothing. I may give away everything I have, and I may even give my body as an offering to be burned. But I gain nothing if I do not have love."

- * Talk vs. Walk
- * Attendance vs. Worship
- * Work vs. Service

II. Love Is Perfection In The Making

I **Corinthians 13:4-6** says, "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others. Love does not count up wrongs that have been done. Love takes no pleasure in evil but rejoices over the truth. Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always endures."

- * Love is expressed perfectly in our Father.
- * Love is expressed perfectly in our Savior.
- * Love is expressed perfectly in the Holy Spirit.

III. Love Is Something That Grows Throughout Our Walk

I **Corinthians 13:7-12** says, "Love never ends. There are gifts of prophecy, but they will be ended. There are gifts of speaking in different languages, but those gifts will stop. There is the gift of knowledge, but it will come to an end. The reason is that our knowledge and our ability to prophesy are not perfect. But when perfection comes, the things that are not perfect will end. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways. It is the same with us. Now we see a dim reflection, as if we were looking into a mirror, but then we shall see clearly. Now I know only a part, but then I will know fully, as God has known me."

- * Supernatural spiritual gifts were never meant to last forever.
- * Love grows because it's a natural expression of the Spirit.
- * Love will motivate us to explainable things.

IV. Love Is A Virtue That Lasts Forever

I **Corinthians 13:13** says, "So these three things continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love."

- * Love is our faith in action.
- * Love is proof of our hope.
- * Love is a reflection of something eternal.

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Paul hopes that we will live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to love again?

WORD OF THE DAY = "LOVE"