

Fruit of the Spirit Love

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1. Consider the nature of “Christian love”
 - A. Think about Jesus’ death for you as the best example of love in action. “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.” 1 John 3:16
 1. Has anyone ever saved your life? Has anyone ever given his/her life for you? What is the most loving thing that anyone has ever done for you?
 2. Focus for just a moment on the nature of God’s love for you as manifested in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. How would you describe someone else the nature of that love?
 3. What is the nature of your gratitude and how do you express that gratitude? See John 15:12
 - B. Focus on the nature of true agape love
 1. Love is patient and kind
 2. Love is not jealous or conceited or proud
 3. Love is not ill-mannered, selfish, or irritable
 4. Love does not keep a record of wrongs
 5. Love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth
 6. Love never gives up, and its faith, hope, and patience never fail
 - C. This paints a picture of selfless, giving, nurturing, sacrificing, dedication to the well-being of another
 - D. Contrast this with “love” as depicted in modern songs
 1. Why is it wrong to define love solely as a feeling or emotion
 2. Why is it inaccurate to say love is happiness?
 3. Why is it impossible to love God without loving others?
2. Consider your behavior toward your family, friends, and others you “love.”
 - A. Where do you tend to fall short of the agape standard? Why?
 - B. Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, meaning that true Christian Love should grow in us as a result of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 - C. Why is it that we are less loving toward members of our own household than those we hardly know at times?
 - D. Since love is a fruit of the Spirit, how do you give maneuvering room to the Holy Spirit in your life to show more love to more people?