

A Fruit of the Spirit: Love

- Several Greek words are translated love
 - *Thelo*: desire (I love potato chips)
 - *Philadelphia*: love of the brethren
 - *Philadelphos*: love as brethren
 - *Philandros*: love husbands
 - *Philanthopia*: love humans
 - *Philarguria*: love of money
 - *Philagathos*: love good men
 - *Phileo*: brotherly love (like)
 - *Philoteknos*: love of children
 - *Agapao*: love selflessly
 - *Agape*: selfless love
- A fruit of the Spirit is *agape*: doing what is best for the other person regardless of the effect on me.
- Contrast of loves in John 21:15 – 17
 - 15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you *agape* Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I *phileo* You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”
 - 16 He said to him again, a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you *agape* Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I *phileo* You?” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”
 - 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you *phileo* Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you *phileo* Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I *phileo* You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.”
- How do we get the ability to *agape*? It is a gift from God, a product of the experiences of faith, taught by God, and learned through diligent application.
 - Romans 5:5 ...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us
 - Galatians 5:6 ...faith working through love (Ephesians 6:23)
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:9 ...you are taught by God to love one another.
 - 2 Peter 1:5 – 8 ...giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue...knowledge...self-control...perseverance...godliness...brotherly kindness...love.
- What are the characteristics of the *agape* we have?
 - Love God (Romans 8:28, 1 Corinthians 2:9, 8:3, 16:22, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 John 4:10, 5:2)
 - Without hypocrisy, sincere (Romans 12:9, 2 Corinthians 6:6, 8:8, 1 Peter 1:22)
 - Love one another (Romans 13:8 – 10, Galatians 5:14, Ephesians 1:15, Colossians 1:4, 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 4:9, James 2:8, 1 Peter 2:17, 1 John 3:11, 3:14, 3:23, 4:7, 4:11, 4:12, 4:21, 5:2, 2 John 5)
 - Re-affirmed (2 Corinthians 2:8)
 - Generous in sharing (2 Corinthians 8:24)
 - Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
 - Understanding (Ephesians 3:17 – 19, Philippians 1:9, 1 John 4:7)

- Bearing with one another (Ephesians 4:2)
- Truthful (Ephesians 4:15)
- Building up one another (Ephesians 4:16)
- A way of life (a walk) (Ephesians 5:2, 2 John 6)
- Giving up self (Ephesians 5:25 – 33)
- Increasing (Philippians 1:9, 2 Peter 1:8)
- Brings comfort (Philippians 2:1)
- Brings unity (Colossians 2:2)
- Results in labor (1 Thessalonians 1:3, Hebrews 6:10. 1 John 3:18)
- Have loved His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8)
- Consistent (1 John 2:5, 4:12, 4:17)
- Without fear (1 John 4:18)
- Can church-goers fail to obtain this agape?
 - 1 John 2:15 ...If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
 - 1 John 3:17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees a brother in need, and shuts his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:10 ...they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved.