

**What's in YOUR Garden?
The Fruit of the Spirit: Love**

"Imagine"

Pastor Bill Bowers

July 17, 2016

Galatians 5:22-23
1 Corinthians 13

*The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*
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**For Personal Reflection or LifeGroup Questions
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1. As we begin our exploration into the Fruit of the Spirit, we encounter love as the first evidence of the Fruit. Do you think there is significance to "love" being the first character or nature listed? Why or why not? Please provide a reason for your answer and if you believe there is significance, share what that is.
2. How would you describe love as it is mentioned in the Fruit of the Spirit? Do you think love is emotion based? Intellectually based? Physically based? Spiritually based?
3. The Bible uses two terms, almost exclusively, as love is mentioned in Scripture. One term is *Phileo* (Greek) and the other is *Agape* (Greek). Can you find definitions for these two Greek words as they are used in the Bible? If you are able to find definitions, can you see similarities? Can you find distinct differences between the two "types" of love?
4. The Apostle Paul provides what might arguably be considered the most accurate definition of the love God exhibits toward humanity and the love God expects His following believers to extend to one another in 1 Corinthians 13. Read chapter thirteen and make a list of the attributes of love and make a list of the attributes that are not love. Consider yourself in relation to the list you have created...how are you doing?
5. I Corinthians 13, 1—3, Paul makes a very bold statement; essentially, saying "nothing matters if it is not founded in love." It almost seems as though he is saying love is more than a big deal, it is the only deal. Consider again the definitions of what love is and is not. How do you think you can grow in the fruit of love? Can you determine any steps you might take to make you a more loving person? What do those steps look like?
6. John (the disciple) writes some very bold words concerning Christian love in his first epistle. Read 1 John 3:11-24 and 4:7-21 and write out your thoughts. What do you think John's words are teaching us?
7. Do you think the love we studied in the worship services and through these questions is a love that is to be extended to people we don't know, people we don't trust, or people who are our enemies?
8. Do you think it is possible to love someone and still not like them? Please explain your answer.
9. Who is Jesus referring to when He commands us to "love our neighbor" and "love your enemy?" What kind of love is He commanding us to love them with? Agape? Phileo? A "love" that doesn't have to "like"?

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