

## The Fruit from the Spirit

### I. The new quality of love:

1. Is a divine enabling, not of human origin (Gal. 5:22).
2. Not the same as fondness.
3. Is self-sacrificial: other centered.
4. Is the delight and desire to enable the welfare of other Christians—facilitate their spiritual growth.
5. Love results in action (1 Jn. 3:18).
6. There many benefits to the one loving:
  - 1) Demonstrates love for Christ (Jn. 14:15, 21).
  - 2) Brings practical knowledge of one's initial salvation (1 Jn. 2:3-4).
  - 3) Brings practical knowledge of one's position in Christ (1 Jn. 2:15).
  - 4) Brings a higher form of a relationship with Christ (1 Jn. 3:24).
  - 5) Is a prerequisite to answers to asking-prayer (1 Jn. 3:22).
  - 6) We can know we are loving the Father (1 Jn. 5:2-3).
  - 7) We can know that all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28).

### II. The new meaning of love (agape) explained (1 Cor. 13:1-7):

1. The motivation for using spiritual gifts (vv. 1-3).
2. Works in concert with longsuffering and kindness (v. 4).
3. Is not zealous, *envy* KJV (v. 4 *cf.* Gal. 5:20).
4. Does not brag (v. 4).
5. Is not puffed up—proud (v. 4 *cf.* 5:2).
6. Does not act unbecoming, indecent (v. 5).
7. Does not seek it own things (v. 5).
8. Is not irritated (v. 5).
9. Does not reckon what is lacking in character (v. 5).
10. Does not rejoice in unrighteousness (v. 6).
11. Does joy with the truth (v. 6).
12. 'Covers as a roof', *bear* KJV, all things 'true' (v. 7).
13. Believes all things 'covered' (v. 7).
14. Hopes all things 'true' (v. 7).
15. Is patient to all things 'true' (v. 7 *cf.* Rom. 5:3).

### III. Love is a divine enabling to have the ability to place the welfare of other Christians in high priority: the delight and desire to facilitate others' spiritual growth.