

The Fruit from the Spirit

- I.** The new quality of love, *agape*; this love:
1. Has a divine standard vs. human standard (Jn. 13:34 *cf.* Mk. 12:30-31).
 2. Is a divine enabling vs. human natural ability (Gal. 5:22).
 3. Is other-centered, focused on welfare of others.
 4. Is the divinely provided result of the Christain's mind and will; love can be seen only by what it produces.
 5. Is available at salvation (Rom. 5:5).
 6. Is in the realm of the human spirit, thus rational, not emotion (1 Cor. 6:17 *cf.* 2:11).
- II.** The attitude of love results in action (1 Jn. 3:18, Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:4, 6).
1. Love in action brings experiential knowledge of the truth (1 Jn. 3:17).
 2. Love is the 'overarching' facet of the fruit from the Spirit (1 Cor. 13:7; Eph. 3:17; 4:15-16)
 3. It is through love that faith works (Gal. 5:6).
 4. Love serves other Christians (Gal. 5:13 *cf.* 6:2).
- III.** Understanding love, *agape*, aides interpreting key verses (2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Pet. 1:7-8; 1 Jn. 3:16).
- IV.** Love is the delight in the spiritual welfare of the one(s) loved, even to the point of self-sacrifice.