



# Abounding In The Fruit Of Love

**“But the fruit of the Spirit is love... against such there is no law.... If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-25).**

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Love is described as a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25). Its source and origin is God who Himself is Love (1 John 4:16). True love as a fruit of the Spirit begins to manifest in a life when the person has an encounter with God (John 3:3), thereby clearing the way for the Holy Spirit to work in his/her life to replicate the nature of God in the person.

As God is love, all His actions and words are motivated by love. He was moved by love to send His only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to die for us (John 3:16). Jesus was moved by compassion (another word for love) to teach, heal, deliver and perform miracles (Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32). It was love that made Him to be willingly die on the cross for our sins (Romans 5:8). Imagine the love that made Him to **“steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem”** (Luke 9:51), when He knew that He would be arrested and crucified there. Imagine the love that made Him to endure a shameful and painful death on the cross from the third hour when He was crucified till after the ninth hour when He died (Mark 15:25-37).

Paul pointed out that **“The Love of Christ constraineth us”** (2 Corinthians 5:14). Every Christian is to live in love and let love be their motivating force, constraining factor and sustaining momentum in all they do and say. **“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another”** (1 John 4:11). God's will for every believer regarding love is also revealed in Paul's prayers for believers in churches he founded **“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you”** (1 Thessalonians 3:12); **“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in**

**“God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him” (1 John 4:16).**



**knowledge and in all judgment”** (Philippians 1:9).

From the foregoing, it is every believer's responsibility to daily examine the extent to which s/he is bearing the fruit of love. To help us in this, let's first consider the meaning of Love. In the Bible, three words - Eros, Phileo and Agape are interpreted as love in English; and they convey the following meaning:

- 1) Eros - a romantic love such as the one between husband and wife.
- 2) Phileo - friendship, which is love by chance; and refers to the will rather than the emotion.
- 3) Agape - an undefeatable benevolence and unconquerable goodwill that always seeks the highest good of the other, no matter what he does. It is the self-giving love that gives freely without asking anything in return, and does not consider the worth of its object. It is a love by choice. Agape denotes the unconditional love God has for the world.

1 Corinthians 13 gives a perfect description of the Agape type of love, outlining its prominence (i.e. importance), properties and permanence; which should serve as a mirror for self examination.

**“And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it”** (2 John 1:16).