



*The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? – Galatians 5:6b-7*

The Christian life of love is a supernatural life. It is not produced by merely human forces. It takes resources that we do not have. This is very crucial for us to admit. It is humbling. Left to ourselves we cannot love. If we were able to love naturally, love would not be a fruit of the Holy Spirit; it would be a fruit of our personality or our upbringing or our DNA.

**Faith Expressing Itself Through Love – Gal. 5:1-7**

- I. The Christian and Faith ... 5:6b
  - a. Without Faith, there is no \_\_\_\_\_  
Cp. Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-17
  - b. Without Faith, there is no \_\_\_\_\_  
Cp. Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 3:11
  
- II. The Christian and Freedom ... 5:1
  - a. At Salvation, we were set free from \_\_\_\_\_  
Cp. Romans 6:1-6; John 8:36
  - b. The Christian Set Free to \_\_\_\_\_ ...  
Cp. Galatians 5:1; 13-21; Romans 8:2-8
  
- III. The Christian and Love ... 5:6b
  - a. Love is More than a “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
Cp. Prov. 5:18-20; Rom. 12:10; John 21: 15-19; 3:16
  - b. Love and the \_\_\_\_\_ ...  
Cp. Galatians 5:22-23; 5:6; 1 John 4:8; 1 Cor. 13:13

**The Child of God and His Love**

- I. \_\_\_\_\_ can only be Expressed by the Christian
- II. The Christian's ability to Love will be in direct proportion to his/her \_\_\_\_\_.
- III. Love is the \_\_\_\_\_. It is not the product of our \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Is there a characteristic that becomes evident when you are out of step spiritually? Is there a marker that you or others can observe when things are not right between you and God? How quick are you to resolve the wrong? Does the marker immediately change back after the wrong is corrected? Why or why not?
2. We took a step back this week to reflect upon our Spiritual Beginning. Reflect on your salvation. What were the motivating factors that brought you to know Christ as Savior? What role did His love for you play in bringing you to trust Him? How did God use others? Looking back how did their love for you help you to take this step?
3. Read Romans 13:8-10 in several translations. Identify the commandments mentioned in the passage. How does the command to love sum up (or fulfill) the other commands? Which is more difficult to accomplish, refusing to steal from your worst enemy or choosing to express love to him/her? Can you choose not to steal from that person without God's help? Can you genuinely express love toward them with help from the Lord?
4. Read Psalm 1:1-3 and Jeremiah 17: 7-8. Read them in several translations. The imagery clearly identifies a healthy and vibrant tree that is compared to a spiritually healthy and vibrant follower of Christ. How does the health of the tree (or the spiritual health of the Follower) affect the ability to produce fruit?  
  
Read Galatians 5:22-23. List the fruits of the Spirit. How does the health above affect our ability to produce this kind of fruit? Since love is spiritual fruit, when love is lacking, should we try harder to love or should we examine our spiritual health? Why?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder.
  - Who is a person that you find difficult to love? How could you show God's love to him (or her)?
  - What is the difference between liking someone and loving him (her)? Are we required to like everyone?
  - Since God is gracious to undeserving sinners, how can we know when to be gracious to those in sin and when to confront them or separate from them?

*If you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? – Matthew 5:46-47*



*The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? – Galatians 5:6b-7*

The Christian life of love is a supernatural life. It is not produced by merely human forces. It takes resources that we do not have. This is very crucial for us to admit. It is humbling. Left to ourselves we cannot love. If we were able to love naturally, love would not be a fruit of the Holy Spirit; it would be a fruit of our personality or our upbringing or our DNA.

### Faith Expressing Itself Through Love – Gal. 5:1-7

- I. The Christian and Faith ... 5:6b
  - a. Without Faith, there is no **Salvation**  
Cp. Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-17
  - b. Without Faith, there is no **Christian Life**  
Cp. Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 3:11
- II. The Christian and Freedom ... 5:1
  - a. At Salvation, we were set free from **Sin**  
Cp. Romans 6:1-6; John 8:36
  - b. The Christian Set Free to **Live** ...  
Cp. Galatians 5:1; 13-21; Romans 8:2-8
- III. The Christian and Love ... 5:6b
  - a. Love is More than a "**Second Hand Emotion**"  
Cp. Prov. 5:18-20; Rom. 12:10; John 21: 15-19; 3:16
  - b. Love and the **Christian Life** ...  
Cp. Galatians 5:22-23; 5:6; 1 John 4:8; 1 Cor. 13:13

### The Child of God and His Love

- I. **Biblical Love** can only be Expressed by the Christian
- II. The Christian's ability to Love will be in direct proportion to his/her **Spiritual Health**.
- III. Love is the **fruit of the Holy Spirit**. It is not the product of our **hard work for God**.

1. Is there a characteristic that becomes evident when you are out of step spiritually? Is there a marker that you or others can observe when things are not right between you and God? How quick are you to resolve the wrong? Does the marker immediately change back after the wrong is corrected? Why or why not?
2. We took a step back this week to reflect upon our Spiritual Beginning. Reflect on your salvation. What were the motivating factors that brought you to know Christ as Savior? What role did His love for you play in bringing you to trust Him? How did God use others? Looking back how did their love for you help you to take this step?
3. Read Romans 13:8-10 in several translations. Identify the commandments mentioned in the passage. How does the command to love sum up (or fulfill) the other commands? Which is more difficult to accomplish, refusing to steal from your worst enemy or choosing to express love to him/her? Can you choose not to steal from that person without God's help? Can you genuinely express love toward them with help from the Lord?
4. Read Psalm 1:1-3 and Jeremiah 17: 7-8. Read them in several translations. The imagery clearly identifies a healthy and vibrant tree that is compared to a spiritually healthy and vibrant follower of Christ. How does the health of the tree (or the spiritual health of the Follower) affect the ability to produce fruit?  
  
Read Galatians 5:22-23. List the fruits of the Spirit. How does the health above affect our ability to produce this kind of fruit? Since love is spiritual fruit, when love is lacking, should we try harder to love or should we examine our spiritual health? Why?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder.
  - Who is a person that you find difficult to love? How could you show God's love to him (or her)?
  - What is the difference between liking someone and loving him (her)? Are we required to like everyone?
  - Since God is gracious to undeserving sinners, how can we know when to be gracious to those in sin and when to confront them or separate from them?

*If you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? – Matthew 5:46-47*