

Crossroad of Truth

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Today

Fruit of the Spirit

- Holy Bible's definition
- Why God Cares About Fruit?
 - 1. Love

What Is The Fruit of the Spirit? ²

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** 23 **gentleness, self-control.**

Before We Talk About Fruit... 3

Galatians 5:16-21

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. **17** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: **adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries,** and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.**

Fruit of the Spirit

"Fruit" is a natural result of growth.

"of the Spirit" explains exactly Who causes that growth. No amount of human effort can produce spiritual fruit, but the Spirit's influence in a surrendered heart will produce miracles and fruit.

We cannot produce the type of love God desires without the Holy Spirit.

Fruit is the direct result of whatever controls our hearts (Matthew 15:19):

16 So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? **17** Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? **18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.** **19** For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. **20** These are *the things* which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

Why Does God Care About Fruit?

John 15:1-5

- 15** “**I am the true vine**, and **My Father is the vinedresser**. **2** Every branch in Me that **does not bear fruit He takes away**; and every *branch* that **bears fruit He prunes**, that it may **bear more fruit**. **3** You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
- 5** “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing**.”

Why Does God Care About Fruit? ⁴

1. Vinedresser = God the Father

- Behind everything that Jesus did and needed
- Prunes
- With a knife (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12)

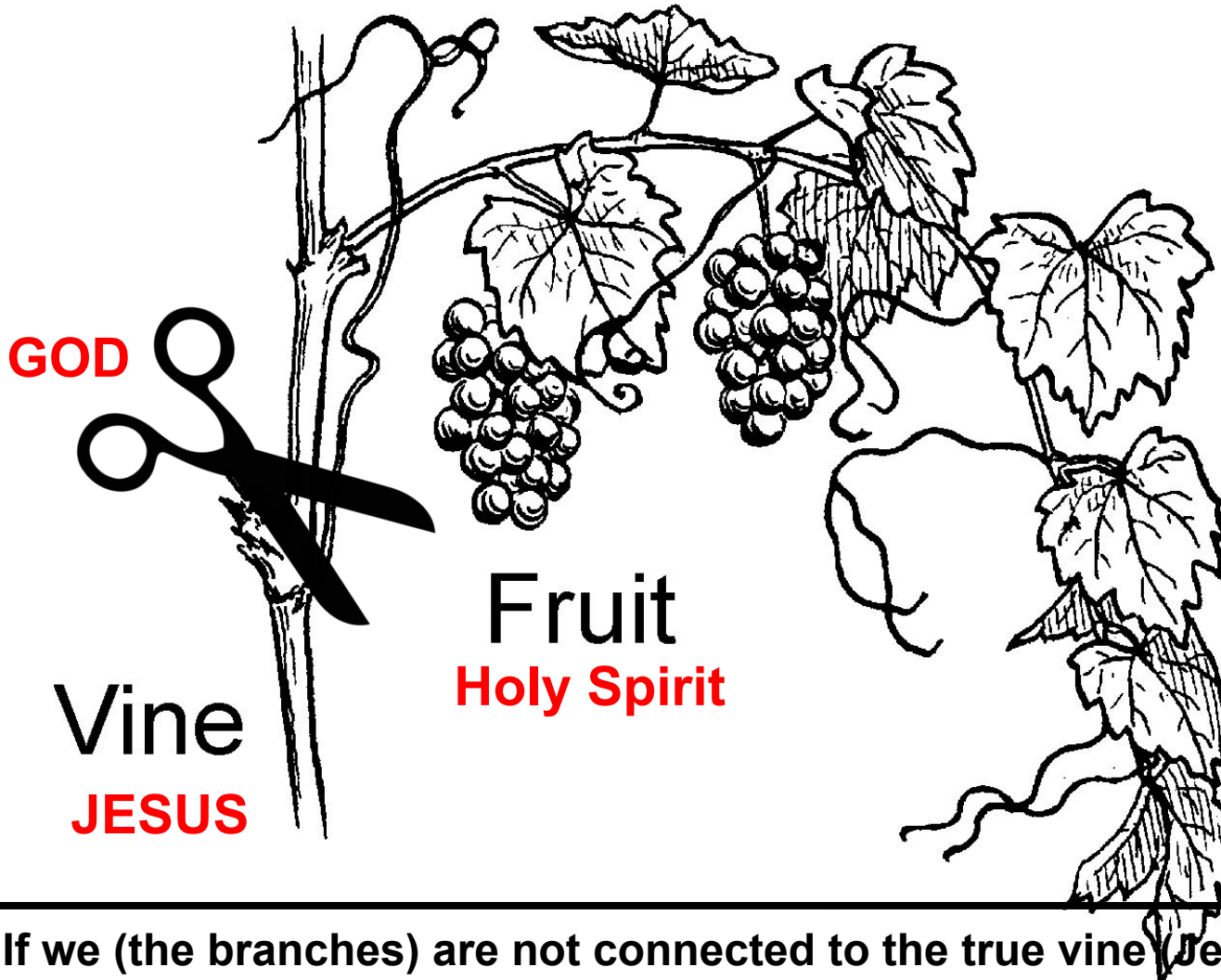
2. Vine = Jesus

- Last of seven “I am” declarations of Jesus in book of John
- OT reference:
 - Israel = vine or vineyard (Isaiah 5:1–7)
- Jesus replaces Israel with Himself as the “true vine.”
- Psalm 89:9-16; Isaiah 27:2; Jeremiah 2:21; Jeremiah 12:10;
Ezekiel 15:1-8; Ezekiel 17:1-21; Ezekiel 19:10-14; Hosea
10:1-2

3. Branch = True/false disciple

- Matthew 7:18; Luke 6:43

Why Does God Care About Fruit? ⁵



All we need is
FAITH in Jesus,
and He will take
care of the rest.

Branch
Us

If we (the branches) are not connected to the true vine (Jesus) and bear fruit (empowered by the Holy Spirit), then the vinedressor (God the Father) will judge us and either prune (encourage) or cut us off from the vine (Jesus).

Why Does God Care About Fruit?

Matthew 7:15-20

15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 **Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**

Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

1. Love

The English use of “love” has many meanings, but the Greek language is more specific.

The love which the Holy Spirit manifests in believers is “agape”.

We know that love is the greatest of all fruits:

- And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love (1 Cor 13:13)

Ten commandments summed up as love:

37 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38** This is *the* first and great commandment. **39** And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

How Does The World Define Love?

“An intense **feeling** of deep affection” - Oxford Dictionary

"Unconditional love is an **unlimited** way of being" - Harold Becker

When one is in love, one always begins by **deceiving** one's self, and one always ends by deceiving others. That is what the world calls a romance.- Oscar Wilde

Love is a **madness**.- Plato

Whoever loves becomes humble. Those who love have, so to speak, pawned a part of their **narcissism**.- Sigmund Freud

The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two **chemical** substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed.- Carl Gustav Jung

<https://www.cbc.ca/life/culture/what-is-love-definitions-from-great-thinkers-throughout-time-1.5018511>

How Does The World Define Love?

Love is an incredibly **subjective** thing, and within love itself there are a whole bunch of **different kinds** of love.

Different people have **different definitions and experiences** of love, and everyone's different experiences of love is of course going to shape what love means to them.

You can tell that you're in love with somebody if you feel like you miss them all the time, feel a desperate need to be with them, or feel like you can't concentrate on other things. However, love can also take up a lot of energy and feel very consuming.

To make the whole concept of love even more complicated, you can love a person without being *in* love with them i.e. you love them but they don't love you back (sadly)

<https://www.cosmopolitan.com/uk/love-sex/relationships/a26857708/definition-of-love/>

How Does The World Define Love?

Love is the most powerful emotion a human being can experience. The strange thing is, that almost nobody knows what love is. Why is it so difficult to find love? That is easy to understand, if you know that the word "love" is not the same as one's feeling of love.

This confusion is not only the case while two people are talking, your own brain does not get it.

If you don't know how to find love with in you, you will never find it outside you.

With love, you get what you put in.

It is not difficult to understand love, once you know how love works.

The only important question for you should be: "Am I experiencing love or not?"

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/what-is-love-a-philosophy_b_5697322

How Does The World Define Love?

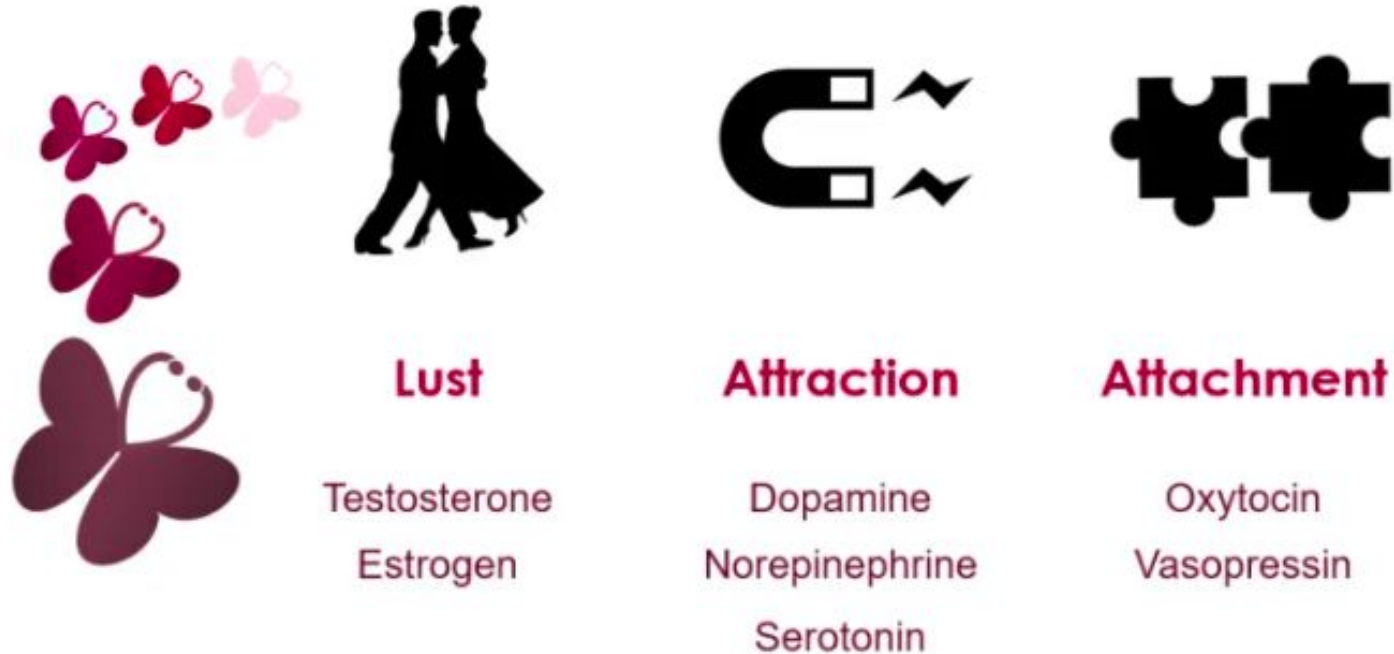


Table 1: Love can be distilled into three categories: lust, attraction, and attachment. Though there are overlaps and subtleties to each, each type is characterized by its own set of hormones. Testosterone and estrogen drive lust; dopamine, norepinephrine, and serotonin create attraction; and oxytocin and vasopressin mediate attachment.

Agape Love

Agape is NOT

- Sexual/Romantic = “Eros”
- Friendship/Camaraderie = “Phileo”
- Family = “Storge”

Agape Love

Agape is God

1 John 4:7-11

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for **love is of God**; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 **In this is love**, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Agape Love

Agape is for God

- “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and **love** the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (Matt 6:24)
- 27 So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your **heart**, with all your soul, with all your **strength**, and with all your **mind**,’ and ‘your neighbor **as yourself.**’ ” (Luke 10:27)

Agape Love

Agape is love for another:

- "Greater **love** has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13)
- "For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should **love** one another" (1 John 3:11)

Agape Love

Agape is love for another, even your enemies:

Matthew 5:43-48

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, **love your enemies**, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Agape Love

Agape is sacrifice:

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that He **gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Ephesians 2:4-5

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great **love** with which He **loved** us, **5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

Agape Love ⁵

All Agape should lead to feeding His sheep:

John 21:15-17

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of onah, **do you love Me** more than these?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “**Feed My lambs.**”

16 He said to him again a second time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, **do you love Me?**”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “**Tend My sheep.**”

17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, **do you love Me?**” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?”

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “**Feed My sheep..**”

1. Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

4 Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails.

1. Love

Love is

- suffers long and is kind;
- love does not envy;
- love does not parade itself (boast), is not puffed up (proud);
- does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;
- does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
- bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- Love never fails

“Suffers Long and is Kind”

This describes patience with people, not circumstances or events

The ability to be wronged and wronged again, and have the power to retaliate, but not consider it.

A long suffering person does not immediately retaliate or punish. Instead they have a “long fuse” and patiently forebears.

Long-suffering says, “I’ll take anything from my enemies.” Kindness says, “I’ll give anything to my enemies to meet their need.”

Long-suffering endures the injuries of others, and kindness pays them back only with good deeds.

“Suffers Long and is Kind” ⁷

How do we be patience characteristic of Christ?

1. We thank God (Philippians 4:4; 1 Peter 1:6).
2. We seek His purposes
3. We remember His promises (Romans 8:28)

“Love Does Not Envy” 8

Envy is

1. Wanting something that someone has
2. You resent someone who has what you want,.

Envy and jealousy are interchangeable term because both relate to covetousness.

Both envy and jealousy are listed in the Bible as sins to avoid along with greed, slander, and anger (2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:20–21; Mark 7:21–23).

Jealousy is a reaction to the fear or threat of losing something, or often *someone*, we possess, especially romantic relationships (Proverbs 6:34).

Envy or jealousy is the enemy of contentment because we cannot live in grateful contentment when focused on what we don't have.

Envy unchecked can result in walking away from God in order to meet our desires in our own way. Jealousy unchecked can result in bitterness toward those God has called us to love (John 13:34; 1 Peter 1:22; Hebrews 12:15).

“Love Does Not Boast/Proud”⁹

The Greek word translated to mean “to brag or point to oneself.”

Earlier chapters of 1 Corinthian describes Christians boasting about many things:

- Chapters 1-3: They argued over which apostle they followed
- Chapter 4: They spoke poorly of Paul.
- Chapter 5: They boasted of their tolerance of sinful behavior
- Chapter 6: They took fellow believers to court with lawsuits
- Chapter 11: Lord’s Supper dishonored by including gluttony and drunkenness
- Chapter 12: They argued about which spiritual gifts were most important.

The reason that love does not boast is simple: love is focused on the loved one, not on oneself.

“Love Is Not Rude”

The Greek translated as “does not act unbecomingly” or “does not act inappropriately.”

When Christians give testimony to what they believe and defend the faith, they are to do so “with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15).

We are to witness in a loving, courteous way.

Christians are called to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), because love is not rude.

“Love Is Not Self-seeking

The Greek phrase literally means “does not seek the things of itself.”

Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second [commandment] is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31).

Love for God and others is to mark the believer; not love for self.

Jesus showed love in that He “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

Love in practice includes following the example of Jesus, considering the needs and interests of others, and denying our personal desires in order to serve those in need.

“Love Is Not Easily Provoked”

If love is not easily angered, then a person with a “short fuse,” who becomes angry easily, is not showing love.

Patience includes the ability to tolerate weaknesses in others without readily expressing anger. “Love covers over a multitude of sins” ([1 Peter 4:8](#))

Anger itself is not sinful but can quickly lead to sinful expressions.

There are times when we become angry, yet we are called to express our anger in non-sinful, constructive ways. Love will guide us in the proper handling of anger. Jesus Himself was angry on rare circumstances.

Scripture instructs us to be “slow to become angry” ([James 1:19](#)). God is “slow to anger, abounding in love” ([Psalm 86:15](#)).

“Love Keep No Records of Wrongs”

This idea of keeping no list of wrongs connects with Paul’s words to the Corinthian believers.

Some in the church were bringing lawsuits against other Christians. Instead of settling church matters among themselves in a spirit of humility and love, they were dragging each other in public to court.

Paul wrote that love “keeps no record of wrongs.” It is better to be cheated than to be unloving.

We forgive as Christ has forgiven us.

When Peter asked Jesus, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times” (Matthew 18:21-22).

“Love Does Not Delight In Evil, but Rejoices With The Truth”¹⁰

Corinth was an evil place with idol worship and sexual immorality.

The recently converted Christians in Corinth sometimes had a hard time shaking the old habits.

To combat these evils, Paul taught that love does not enjoy or “delight in” these actions.

True love

- finds joy in truth and righteousness
- Rejoices in what is right and good
- Has nothing to hide

Love does not try to find ways to get away with bad behavior, and it does not tolerate injustice. Instead, it treasures truth, celebrates good behavior, and promotes virtue.

“Love Always Protects”¹¹

The Greek word for “protects” is *stegēi*, which means “to cover”.

God’s type of love protects.

- It watches out for others.
- It withstands difficulty.
- God’s love has the ability to cover if there is a shortcoming or fault in the loved one,(Proverbs 10:12). i

Love is not based on selfish desire or even mutual benefit. It seeks the benefit of the other person.

Love aims to give rather than receive.

One of the marks of love is that it always seeks to protect the loved one.

“Love Always Trusts”

The Greek word translated as “believes” is a form of the verb *pisteuo*, which means “to believe, place faith in, or trust.”

Often times, this word is used in context as an expression of love.

A person with God’s type of love will “always trust.” They will

- not be suspicious of the one they love.
- be slow to believe any damaging news concerning the loved one
- always give the benefit of the doubt.

The loved one may have “crossed the line” or be in some way undeserving of trust, but true love is able to look past that and meet the need of the individual.

Love Always Perseveres ¹³

The Greek word *hupomenei* translates as “remaining” or “enduring.”

Love doesn't quit or give up. Love lasts. There is a persistence to love, even in the tough times.

Jesus modeled enduring love: “Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end” ([John 13:1](#)).

During His most difficult night, He washed the feet of His disciples and prayed for them. His love even endured the cross ([Hebrews 12:2](#)).

We are called to endure for what is right. We must show love whether or not it is convenient or easy.

Love Never Fails

God chose us (John 17:24; Ephesians 1:4-5), died for us (Romans 5:8), and will never leave us (Hebrews 13:5).

Nothing at all can separate us from God's eternal love:

“I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38–39).

Love never fails. Love lasts. It has to because God is love, and as eternal as God is, so eternal is that which is true of God.

One of the reasons that love is the greatest gift is that it is essential to God's nature.

Love Never Fails

Notice the similarities in the definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 to the fruit of the Spirit:

“love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

This indicates a close connection between love and God’s fruit.

The ultimate example of God’s never ending love for us is His patience for individuals to respond in faith to Jesus Christ. God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

Have you made that decision to believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for you and that He rose again to provide forgiveness and eternal life?

Do You Want To Believe?

Romans 10:9–13

9 if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”