

Fruit of the Spirit: Love

by Phil B.

Galatians 5:18-23

Background

- Written AD 50-52 – Acts 16
- Purpose
 - Salvation by grace- not works
 - Salvation by grace is not a license to sin

Context

- vs 7 “You were running well . . . ”
- vs 13 & 14 “ . . . through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in . . . “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”
- vs 16 & 17 “. . . walk by the Spirit, . . . the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh;

Deeds of the flesh (vs 19-21)

immorality
impurity
sensuality
idolatry
sorcery
enmities
strife
jealousy
outbursts of anger
disputes
dissensions
factions
envying
drunkenness
carousing

Fruit of the Spirit (vs22-23)

love
joy
peace
patience
kindness
goodness
faithfulness
gentleness
self-control

Cautionary Tension

“When Christianity becomes a list of ‘do’s and don’ts’ that is a problem.”
Throwing out all guidelines of how to live is also a problem

4 types of Love

Agape (*ah-GAH pay*)

related to obedience and commitment, and not feeling and emotion; the type of love that comes from God - perfect, pure, and self-sacrificing.

“God is love”

feelings & emotions CAN be associated with Agape love. “Love without emotion is really responsibility.”

phileo (*fill LAY o*)

a special affection for someone or something;

a strong emotional connection and deep friendship;

a powerful bond that forms a community;

not as deep as the love within a family, nor the intensity of romantic passion.

storge (*STOR-jay*)

family love and affection that occurs between parents, children, siblings, and between husbands and wives in a good marriage;

steady and sure.

Eros (*AIR os*)

physical or passionate love

Love in the Bible

Matthew 22:35-40 “ . . . love the Lord your God with all your heart . . . ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world . . .”

Luke 6:27-29 “. . . love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. . .”

Luke 6:31-32 “Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. . . even sinners love those who love them.”

John 13:34-35 “By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.”

John 15:13 "Greater love has no man than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

Romans 8:35 "Who will separate us from the love of Christ?"

1 Corinthians 13:13 And the "Greatest of these is love."