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FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Cultivating and Sharing Supernatural Fruit

- What are your favorite kinds of fruit?
- Imagine one incredibly perfect fruit that combines the best characteristics of all your favorites.
- God wants to develop that kind of special fruit in the lives of all His children, including you!
- **Fruit like that, others want!**



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FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:22-23

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- This incredibly, wonderful fruit grew and blossomed in the life of Jesus as we just saw in our study of Luke.
- If we are to follow Him, then the fruit of the Spirit should be evident in our lives too.
- So, this study is designed to help us understand how to cultivate and share supernatural fruit.



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FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:22-23

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- The first thing we need to understand is that it is not our fruit that Paul is talking about!
- He's not talking about natural fruit that we can grow ourselves; He is talking about supernatural fruit that is produced in us!
- Fruit does not manufacture itself; it comes from the vine!



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FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

JOHN 15:5

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. **If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.**"*

- Jesus makes it clear that spiritual fruit should be evident in our lives, if He is in us.
- Likewise, He makes it clear that **we cannot produce spiritual fruit detached from Him.**
- Spiritual fruit only grows when we remain or abide in Christ. It comes from the vine!



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FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

MATTHEW 7:16-20

¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them.** Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus, **by their fruit you will recognize them.

- Jesus emphasizes the importance of fruit by mentioning it seven times in four verses.
- He told the disciples not once but twice that they would recognize fellow Christians "by their fruit."
- Our lives should be so marked by fruit of the Spirit that others know that we too are children of God.
- **Beth Moore** says it well; "The fruit of the Spirit is the supernatural outcome of being filled with the Spirit, the **living proof** that the Spirit of God dwells in us."

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SUPERNATURAL LOVE GALATIANS 5:22-23

love

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 m|/#hdfh/#sdwhqfh/#hggqhvv/#jrrgqhvv/#
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 Djdlqw#xfk#klbjv#khuh#v#r#dz 1

What is supernatural love?



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THREE WORDS FOR LOVE IN GREEK

EROS	PHILEO	AGAPE
Grasping Love	Friendly Love	Caring Love
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literally means Longing and desire. • Eros is a selfish love; it asks, "what can I get for myself?" • Eros is never used in the New Testament. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender affection that we have for our friends and family. • Involves putting others first, rejoicing with them, and supporting them. • Can even be sacrificial. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the divine capacity to love. • Unconditional, and sacrificial. • Involves loving the unlovely, like our enemies. • Can only be expressed through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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SUPERNATURAL LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

¹If I speak the languages of men and of angels, but do not have **love**, I am a sounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so that I can move mountains, but do not have **love**, I am nothing. ³And if I donate all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but do not have **love**, I gain nothing. ⁴**Love** is patient; **love** is kind. **Love** does not envy; is not boastful; is not conceited; ⁵does not act improperly; is not selfish; is not provoked; does not keep a record of wrongs; ⁶finds no joy in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸**Love** never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for languages, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰But when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put aside childish things. ¹²For now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known. ¹³Now these three remain: faith, hope, and **love**. But the greatest of these is **love**.

SUPERNATURAL LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

CHARACTERISTICS OF AGAPE LOVE

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Love is patient – long-spirited, longsuffering, forbearing, enduring, tempered, lenient | 6. Love does not act improperly – not rude, unbecoming, unseemly, indecent, shameful | 11. Love bears all things – protects, to cover over with silence, to keep secret, to conceal |
| 2. Love is kind – to show oneself useful, to act benevolently, to help | 7. Love is not selfish – not self-seeking, unselfish, sacrificial | 12. Love believes all things – trusts, thinks to be true, to credit, to place confidence in |
| 3. Love does not envy – not covetous or jealous | 8. Love is not provoked – slow to anger, not easily irritated | 13. Love hopes all things – expects the best, joyful and confident |
| 4. Love is not boastful – not given to self-adulation, bragging, or rhetorical embellishments | 9. Love does not keep a record of wrongs – holds no grudges, forgives | 14. Love endures all things – to stay behind, support, have fortitude, persevere |
| 5. Love is not conceited – not vain, egotistical, narcissistic, self-absorbed | 10. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth – sympathize in gladness, | 15. Love never ends – never fails, never stops, never without effect, never in vain |

SUPERNATURAL LOVE 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

CHARACTERISTICS OF AGAPE LOVE

- Raise your hand if you can check all 15 of the boxes.
- I think you get the picture; **humans are incapable of this kind of love.**
- Agape is a divine capacity to love - **only God is capable of agape love.**

Agape is the love of God expressed through us to others by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

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SUPERNATURAL LOVE 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

CHARACTERISTICS OF AGAPE LOVE

- **Agape love is sacrificial** – it puts others' interests ahead of its own.
 - ❖ **John 15:13:** *No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends.*
 - ❖ **Romans 5:8:** *But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us!*
 - ❖ **1 John 3:16:** *This is how we have come to know love: He laid down His life for us.*

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SUPERNATURAL LOVE 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

CHARACTERISTICS OF AGAPE LOVE

- Agape love is demonstrative – it always shows!
 - ❖ Agape is more of a response than a feeling – agape love is a verb, not a noun.
 - ❖ Agape is fueled by needs rather than the desires of self or others.
 - ❖ God demonstrated His love for us through Jesus and He commands us to love as He loves.

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SUPERNATURAL LOVE JOHN 13:34-35

CHARACTERISTICS OF AGAPE LOVE

Agape

34 "I give you a new commandment: love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. 35 *By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

Agape

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SUPERNATURAL LOVE

And hope does not disappoint us,
because God
has poured out his *love*
into our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
whom he has given us.

ROMANS 5:5

Fear not, God has
implanted His love
in our Hearts!



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SUPERNATURAL LOVE

LUKE 24:49; ACTS 1:8

SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT

"...Stay in the city *until you are empowered*
from on high." (Luke 24:49)

"But *you will receive power when the Holy Spirit*
has come on you, and you will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and
to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

If you are His child then you have His
love inside you, cultivate it and share it!

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FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Cultivating and Sharing Supernatural Fruit

- **Cultivate & share agape love this week!**

- ❖ Make a list of 5-10 people you love the most and make sure they know without a shadow of a doubt that you love them?
- ❖ Make a list of people that God is calling you to love (agape style) that you are resisting?
- ❖ Commit them to prayer this week and ask God to demonstrate His agape love to them through you!



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