

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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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 <u>produced in us!</u>
- Fruit does not manufacture itself; it comes from the vine!



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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

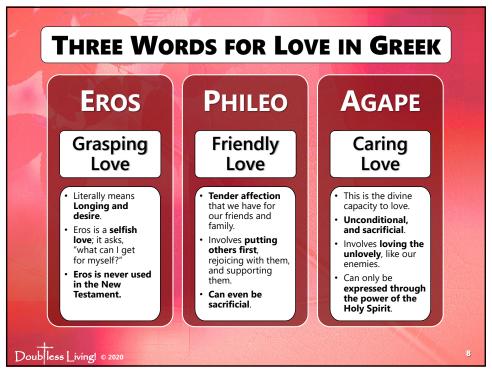
MATTHEW 7:16-20

¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Likewise every good tree bears good <u>fruit</u>, but a bad tree bears bad <u>fruit</u>. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad <u>fruit</u>, and a bad tree cannot bear good <u>fruit</u>. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good <u>fruit</u> 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 <u>seven</u> times in four versus.
- 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

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. ⁴Love 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.

⁶Love 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.

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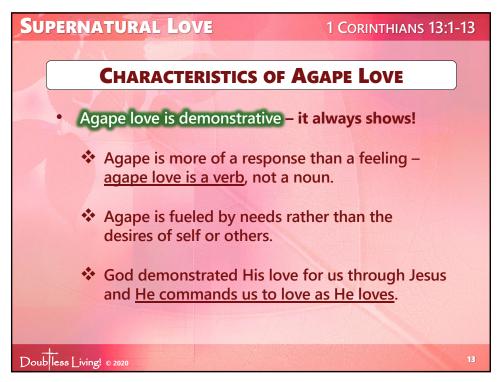
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SUPERNATURAL LOVE **1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13 CHARACTERISTICS OF AGAPE LOVE** 1. Love is patient - long-6. Love does not act 11. Love bears all things spirited, longsuffering, improperly - not rude, protects, to cover over with unbecoming, unseemly, forbearing, enduring, silence, to keep secret, to tempered, lenient indecent, shameful 2. Love is kind – to show 7. Love is not selfish - not 12.Love believes all things oneself useful, to act self-seeking, unselfish, trusts, thinks to be true, to benevolently, to help sacrificial credit, to place confidence in 3. Love does not envy -8. Love is not provoked -13.Love hopes all things expects the best, joyful and not covetous or jealous slow to anger, not easily irritated confident 4. Love is not boastful not given to self-9. Love does not keep a 14.Love endures all things - to adulation, bragging, or record of wrongs - holds stay behind, support, have rhetorical embellishments no grudges, forgives fortitude, persevere 5. Love is not conceited -10.Love finds no joy in 15.Love never ends - never not vain, egotistical, unrighteousness, but fails, never stops, never narcissistic, self-absorbed rejoices in the truth without effect, never in vain sympathize in gladness, Doubless Living! © 2020

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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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.









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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