

Fruits of the Spirit(Love)

It's common knowledge that a fruit tree bears fruit. The fruit reveals the identity of the tree. If it is an Apple Tree then it will bear apples, and if it is a fig tree then it will bear figs. We can't always tell the tree by its leaves or its branches, but we can tell by the fruit. Jesus said that you can tell the tree by the fruit it bears. Let's examine one of the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). We will focus on **Love**.

If Christians are to be productive they must be planted by the rivers of water (Ps. 1:3). Some times trees are infected by bag worms, fungus, and termites. Which causes the tree productivity to drop off and sometimes it results in the decay of the tree. The Devil is just like that; he wants to infect us with jealousy, hate, strife, wrath, fornication; so that we can't be productive Christians.

But if you are bug free, fungus free then you can bear fruit (**love**). Just like there are different types of apples (winesap, delicious, green); there are different types of love (eros, philo, agape). The love that God wants us to have is agape(selfless or spiritual). This type of love is....

I. Love is Active“Children let us not love in word” (I John 3:18)

Roses are red, violets are blue, I'm so in love with you - **Just words**

- Honey pie honey bunch, you know that I love you - **Just words**
- We should not just say it we should walk in love as Christ did(Ep. 5:2)

II. Love is Benevolent.... “Love your enemies and do good to them” (Lk 6:27)

- If you love your enemies then you will pray for them who despitefully use you (Mat. 5:44)
- If you love your enemies then you will feed him if he is hungry, if he is thirsty ,give him drink, in so doing heap coals of fire upon his head (Romans 12:20).
- Don't allow the enemy to sway your mind. Don't give in to evil but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21)

III. Love Identifies....“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if ye love one another” (Jn 13:35)

- Christians should be identified by our behaviors
- This love is christ like. We should love one another as Christ loved us (Jn 13:34)
- We are recognized by our love. This love that keeps communication lines open no matter what.