

## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—LOVE (PART 2)

By Keith Greer

Love is the "common thread" that must be interwoven into every aspect of our lives as Christians. We must be careful to add LOVE to our lives - as God would have us to do.

(1). **LOVE OF GOD** From the beginning of time, God has always asked that men love Him. "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy with them who love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;" (Deuteronomy 7:9) Why must we love God?

(2). **LOVE OF GOD FOR MAN** "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son ...." (John 3: 16) God has always loved man, and continues to manifest it before us daily. Even those who reject God continue to "live and move" (Acts 17:25-28) because of the love He has for us.

(3). **LOVE OF CHRIST FOR MAN** "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) Christ died not only to fulfill His Father's will, but also because of the love that He had for each one of us. We demonstrate our love when we, in turn, are obedient to all of God's commandments.

(4). **LOVE FOR MAN FOR CHRIST** Jesus told His disciples that "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you ... Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." (John 15:12-14) How much do you love Christ and the sacrifice that has been made? It will be manifest in your life.

(5). **LOVE OF TRUTH** "Blessed is the man ... "whose" ... delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." (Psalm 1: 1-2) Since all of the scriptures are "God breathed" we must LOVE them and OBEY them if we are going to be pleasing to God.

(6). **LOVE OF THE BRETHREN** "If a man say I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (1 John 4:20-21) Remember our previous article and the ways we can plainly and powerfully express the proper love we MUST have for one another as God's children.

(7). **LOVE OF MAN FOR MAN** The apostle Paul wrote that "I am a debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, to the wise and to the unwise ... For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:14-16) Paul saw that he had a responsibility to all men. How can we say that we love God - and do any less? Love for man will always require we see his greatest need and his greatest need is for a Savior. Why? He is lost and dying in sin, Romans 3:23; 6:23. How can we truly claim to love them if when we have an opportunity to share the saving gospel of Christ with them and we do not?

Someone said long ago "love makes the world go around." In many ways this is an accurate statement. God's children lives begins and ends with our ability to develop this character trait of love. Love must be the motivating factor in all we do for our Lord. God sees it and will reward us with a home with Him in the grand abode of heaven. People will naturally be drawn to us and we will make their lives richer and fuller by the LOVE we express to them.

Yes, it's not by accident that the list of the "fruits of the spirit" begin with LOVE. May God help each of us in Harrodsburg to truly have this type of love for Him and one another!

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