

The Love of God, Barriers and Enablers

Fruit of the Spirit – Love

What is the Fruit of the Spirit – Love?

Our society has many ideas of what love is:

- Passionate affection for someone
- Being a warm person, kind and gentle
- A fleshly passion, desire, or appetite
- Really liking or enjoying something

But, as we will see from the Scriptures the Love of God is more:

- Our Godly Attitudes and Choices
- Our Godly Behavior and Actions
- Our Godly Character

The Love of God started with God...

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:10

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Man responds to the acts of God's of love...

1 John 4:17-20

¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ **We love Him because He first loved us.** ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can^[b] he love God whom he has not seen?

Man's Love of God is Shown in Two Ways...

Matthew 22:37-39

³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

Man's Love of God is Keeping All of God's Commandments...

1 John 5:1-3

⁵ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

2 John 1:6

⁶ This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

And God Fulfills His Love Toward Those Who Love Him and Keep His Commandments...

Deuteronomy 7:9

⁹ “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He *is* God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

God Fulfills His LOVE in Keeping His Promises and Has Mercy for Those Who LOVE Him & Keep His Commandments – Deut 7:9

The LOVE of God
Is to Keep His
Commandments

1 Jn 5:1-3
2 Jn 1:6

Man is to LOVE God with all His Heart and His Neighbor as Himself – Matt 22:37-39

Ingratitude

Lack of
Respect

Disrespect

Self Willed

We LOVE God
Because He First
Loved Us
1 Jn 4:17-20

Trusts
Self

Selfish

Pride

Bitter-
ness

Grumbling

Discontent

God First LOVED Man and Gave His Son – Rom 5:8, 1 John 4:10

Proverbs 30:7-9

⁷Two *things* I request of You
(Deprive me not before I die):
⁸Remove falsehood and lies far from me;
Give me neither poverty nor riches—
Feed me with the food allotted to me;
⁹Lest I be full and deny *You*,
And say, “Who *is* the LORD?”
Or lest I be poor and steal,
And profane the name of my God.

Trust Self / Self Willed / Bitterness / Disrespect for God

Exodus 16:1-3

¹6 And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. ²Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat *and* when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Ingratitude / Trusts Self / Selfish / Grumbling / Discontent

Genesis 17 ³ And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, “Why *is* it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”

Numbers 11 ⁴ Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: “Who will give us meat to eat? ⁵ We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶ but now our whole being *is* dried up; *there is* nothing at all except this manna *before* our eyes!”

Ingratitude / Trusts Self / Selfish / Grumbling / Discontent

Numbers 14:1-4,11

¹⁴ So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. ² And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! ³ Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" ⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

¹¹ Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?"

Ingratitude / Trusts Self / Don't Need God

Genesis 2 ⁸The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁵Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3 ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Discontent / Pride / Disrespect God

God Fulfills His LOVE in Keeping His Promises and Has Mercy for Those Who LOVE Him & Keep His Commandments – Deut 7:9

The LOVE of God
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1 Jn 5:1-3

2 Jn 1:6

Man is to LOVE God with all His Heart and His Neighbor as Himself – Matt 22:37-39

Thankful
to God

Reverence
& Godly
Fear

Needs
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We LOVE God
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God First LOVED Man and Gave His Son – Rom 5:8, 1 John 4:10

Exodus 20

- ¹⁸ Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”
- ²⁰ And Moses said to the people, “Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.”

Reverence & Godly Fear

Heb 12:28-13:1

²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹For our God *is* a consuming fire.

¹³ Let brotherly love continue.

Thankful to God / Reverence & Godly Fear / Contentment

Exodus 20:2-3

² “I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

³ “You shall have no other gods before Me.

Thankful to God / Reverence & Godly Fear

1 John 3:16

¹⁶ By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

Thankful to God

Deut 8:1-5

- 8 “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers. ² And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. ³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. ⁵ You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.

Needs God / Trusts God / Humble

Deut 8:11-17

¹¹ “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, ¹² lest—*when* you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell *in them*; ¹³ and *when* your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; ¹⁴ when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; ¹⁵ who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, *in which were* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; ¹⁶ who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end— ¹⁷ then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’

Thankful to God / Reverence & Godly Fear / Humble

Deut 8:18-20

¹⁸ “And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day. ¹⁹ Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. ²⁰ As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God.

Thankful to God / Reverence & Godly Fear

1 John 4:7-11

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Thankful to God

Psalm 100:4-5

⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.
⁵ For the LORD *is* good;
His mercy *is* everlasting,
And His truth *endures* to all generations.

Thankful to God

Matthew 5:3-10

- ³ “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed *are* those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God.
- ⁹ Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Needs God

Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Trusts God

1 Peter 5:5-9

⁵ Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Humble

1 Jn 3:1-3

³ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Contentment

Hebrews 13:5-6 – Content -- Trusts God

⁵ *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."* ⁶ So we may boldly say:

"The LORD *is* my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Trusts God / Contentment

God Fulfills His LOVE in Keeping His Promises and Has Mercy for Those Who LOVE Him & Keep His Commandments – Deut 7:9

The LOVE of God
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1 Jn 5:1-3

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Man is to LOVE God with all His Heart and His Neighbor as Himself – Matt 22:37-39

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God First LOVED Man and Gave His Son – Rom 5:8, 1 John 4:10

Galatians 5:16-24 – Fruits of the Spirit / Flesh

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

2 Peter 1:1-9 – Fruitful Spiritual Growth

¹ Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust. ⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

God Fulfills His LOVE in Keeping His Promises and Has Mercy for Those Who LOVE Him & Keep His Commandments – Deut 7:9

Fruits of the Spirit: LOVE, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, & Self Control
Galatians 5:22-22

The LOVE of God
Is to Keep His
Commandments

1 Jn 5:1-3
2 Jn 1:6

Fruitful Spiritual Growth: Add to Your Faith, Virtue, Knowledge, Self-Control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, and LOVE
2 Peter 1:5-7

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God First LOVED Man and Gave His Son – Rom 5:8, 1 John 4:10

Galatians 6:7-10

⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

SOWING & REAPING SPIRITUAL THINGS

R
E
A
P

Godly Attitude



Godly Behavior



Godly Habit



Godly Character



S
O
W



Godly Thought



Godly Attitude



Godly Behavior



Godly Habit

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Invitation – What do I do about it?

- Repent of your sins yielding your will to His will
- Humbly confess Him as your Lord and Savior
- Putting Him on in Baptism because you need to come in contact with His saving blood
- Begin your reverent, thankful, trusting, contented life as a child of God

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Enablers:

- Reverence & Godly Fear
- Thankful to God
- Needs God
- Trusts God
- Humble
- Contented

We LOVE Him
Because He
First Loved Us

1 Jn 4:17-20

Barriers:

- Lack of Respect & Disrespect
- Ingratitude
- Self Willed
- Trusts Self
- Proud, Bitter & Selfish
- Discontent & Grumbling

God First LOVED Man and Gave His Son – Rom 5:8, 1 John 4:10