

EMPOWERED
the person & work of the holy spirit

PART 12
The Fruit of the Spirit –
The Ultimate Apologetic

**THE IRREFUTABLE
DEFENSE FOR THE
SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE IS
THE EVIDENCE OF MY LIFE.
I AM THE BEST APOLOGETIC.**

GALATIANS 5:16-25

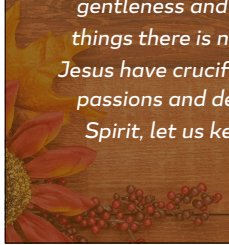
So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

GALATIANS 5:16-25

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you: those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

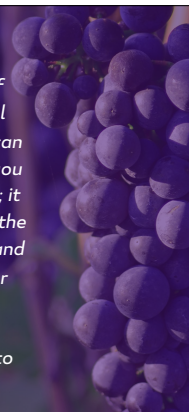
GALATIANS 5:16-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.



JOHN 15:5-8

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you don't remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away; it withers. Such branches are tossed in the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.



LESSONS FROM THE VINE

1

Fruitfulness requires a permanent connection to Christ and persistent flow of the Spirit.

"Apart from me you can do nothing."

JOHN 15:5



LESSONS FROM THE VINE

2

Fruitfulness is the primary mark of discipleship.

"Showing yourselves to be my disciples."

JOHN 15:8



LESSONS FROM THE VINE

3

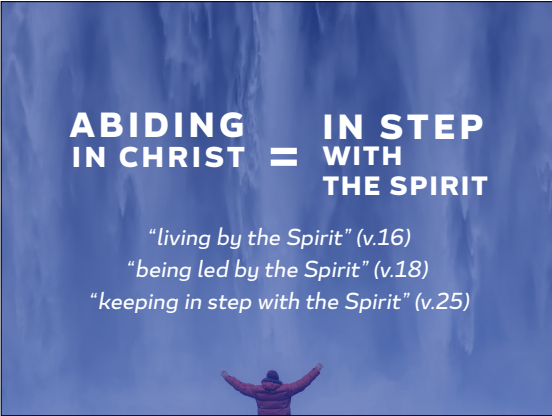
Fruitfulness is the preeminent way that we glorify God.

"This is to my Father's glory".
JOHN 15:8



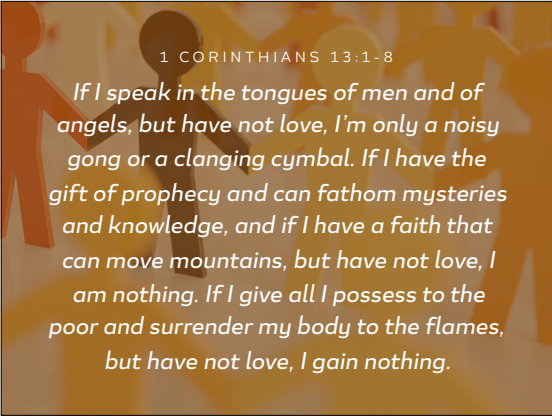
ABIDING IN CHRIST = IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT

"living by the Spirit" (v.16)
"being led by the Spirit" (v.18)
"keeping in step with the Spirit" (v.25)



1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-8

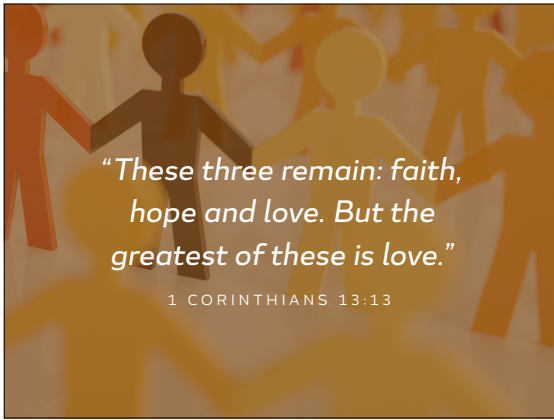
If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I'm only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom mysteries and knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.



1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-8

Love is patient, and kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it's not proud. It's not rude, it isn't self-seeking, it's not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails!





*"These three remain: faith,
hope and love. But the
greatest of these is love."*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13



**LOVE IS THE VERY
ESSENCE OF GOD:**

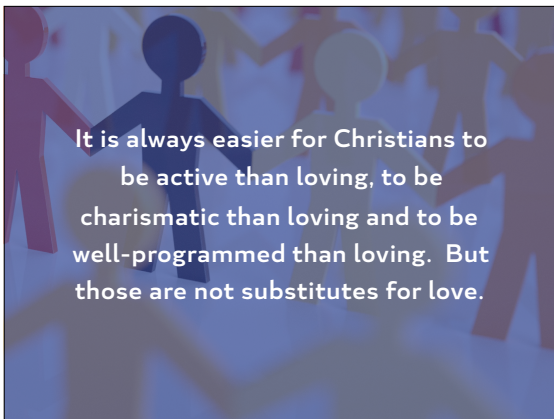
"God is love."

1 JOHN 4:16a

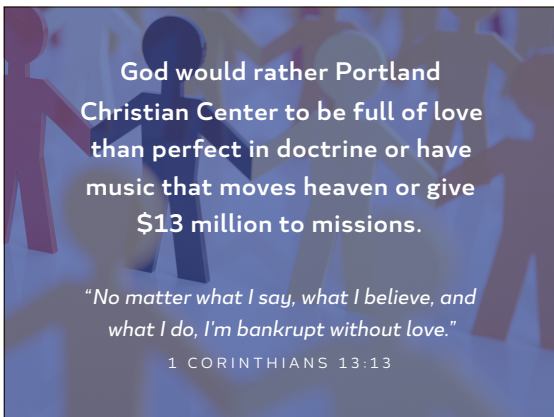
**Love is to be the very
essence of who we are:**

*"Whoever lives in love
lives in God, and God in him."*

1 JOHN 4:16b



It is always easier for Christians to be active than loving, to be charismatic than loving and to be well-programmed than loving. But those are not substitutes for love.



God would rather Portland Christian Center to be full of love than perfect in doctrine or have music that moves heaven or give \$13 million to missions.

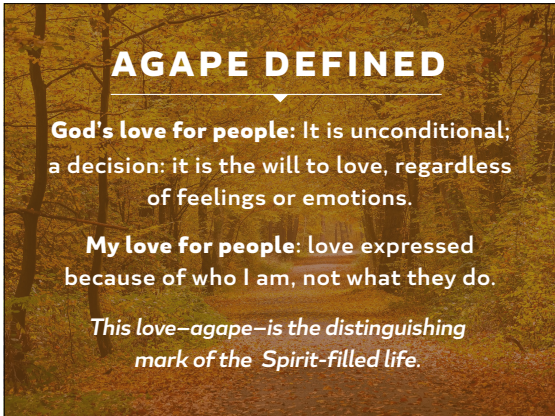
"No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13



LOVE = AGAPE

- **RARE** in ancient Greek literature
- **COMMON** in the New Testament, used **320** times in **260** chapters

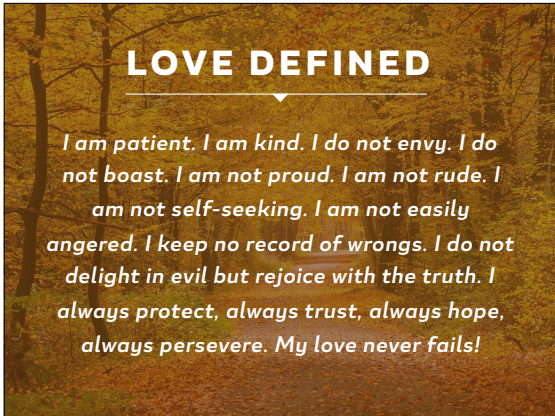


AGAPE DEFINED

God's love for people: It is unconditional; a decision: it is the will to love, regardless of feelings or emotions.

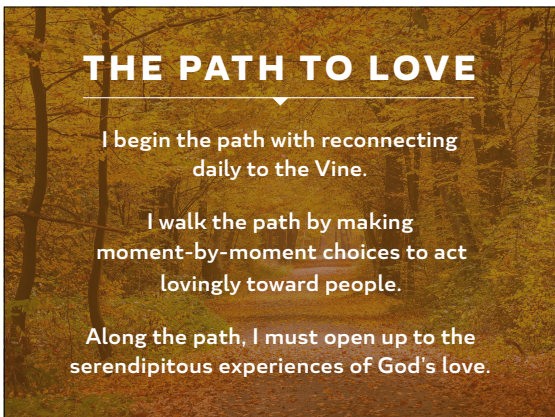
My love for people: love expressed because of who I am, not what they do.

This love—agape—is the distinguishing mark of the Spirit-filled life.



LOVE DEFINED

I am patient. I am kind. I do not envy. I do not boast. I am not proud. I am not rude. I am not self-seeking. I am not easily angered. I keep no record of wrongs. I do not delight in evil but rejoice with the truth. I always protect, always trust, always hope, always persevere. My love never fails!



THE PATH TO LOVE

I begin the path with reconnecting daily to the Vine.

I walk the path by making moment-by-moment choices to act lovingly toward people.

Along the path, I must open up to the serendipitous experiences of God's love.

GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE:
"God loves me so much he gave his only Son to die for me, so I could have eternal life."
JOHN 3:16

GOD'S UNDESERVED LOVE:
"God demonstrates his love for me in that while I was still a sinner, Christ died for me."
ROMANS 5:8

GOD'S UNSTOPPABLE LOVE:
"There's nothing in all creation that can keep God's love from me."
ROMANS 8:38



When I let God love me,
every day I will find much
love for everybody else.

**And everybody else will
have no argument against
my Spirit-filled life!**

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