



Fruit of the Spirit



The Alexander SBS Summer 2025 Series

Lesson #2 – The element of Love

Main Idea

Over the next nine weeks we are going to become intimately familiar with the fruit of the spirit, the elements of which are listed below. This week we'll be discussing the first element, love.

Love
Joy
Peace

Patience
Kindness
Goodness

Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-Control

It's been said that "love makes the world go 'round." There is no doubt God's love for us as reflected in His grace is a powerful force that has shaped mankind. In this week's lesson we're going to do a deep dive into 1 Corinthians 13 (which is probably read at 9 out of 10 weddings!), John 15, and 1 John 4.

Each of us has experienced love. Some of us have experienced conditional love where we knew someone's approval was tied to our performance. We feel love when we're performing, but we feel the sting of rejection when we fail to perform or disappoint others (and this includes ourselves). Some of us have faced rejection and betrayal in an environment we once thought was love, only to experience disappointment and sadness. Others of us have been fortunate to experience unconditional love. We might have experienced this from a parent or grandparent, a sibling, and friend, or even a spouse. Unless we've experienced it on earth, it's hard to imagine unconditional love coming from God. However, God's love is perfect. His love is unconditional, even when we might not feel it.

Today's lesson will include three (3) Bible passages that are all provided on the back page.

1. John 15:9-17
2. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
3. 1 John 4:7-21

Questions for Consideration

1. It is entirely possible for periods of time to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in our flesh. It is not sustainable, but it is possible to exhibit elements like love, patience, kindness, and self-control. Last week we discussed the importance of the Holy Spirit and that the Fruit of the Spirit is a by-product of our walking with the Lord. Consider the two following questions in light of the above comments:
 - a. Have you had a time when you were able to live out the Fruit of the Spirit, but it was not sustainable?
 - b. Recognizing all of us can say "yes" to question "a" what advice would you give a younger version of yourself to foster consistently exhibiting the elements of the Fruit of the Spirit?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-17. Provide examples of times when you have seen love exhibited in the following ways and when you have not.

Love...	Successful demonstration	Failure to demonstrate
Is patient and kind:		
Doesn't envy or boast:		
Is not resentful:		

3. John described himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" and had a lot to say about love in his gospel and epistles. According to the provided John 15 and 1 John 4 passages, what are we commanded to do as Believers in terms of love and what role does love contribute to helping create unity of the church?



John 15:9-17

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 John 4:7-21 (NIV)

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

