

Fruits of Love

I. Introduction

A. Loving our neighbors as ourselves is the foundation of treating others as God desires. Consider some fruits of genuine love for others. **Matthew 22:37-40**

II. Love is Longsuffering

A. If we love as we should, we will not be short-tempered with others or retaliate when treated poorly. Instead, we will be patient toward all. **1 Corinthians 13:4; 1 Thess. 5:14-15**

III. Love Forgives Others

A. If we love others as we should, we will not keep a mental list of their mistakes to use it against them. Love does not harbor bitter grudges or resentment, but is forgiving.
1 Corinthians 13:5; Colossians 3:13

IV. Love Desires Others' Good

A. If we love others as ourselves, we will desire the best *in* them and *for* them. **1 Corinthians 13:7**

V. Love Seeks Others' Good

A. Moreover, genuine love for others will lead us to *seek* the best for others. Instead of only asking what pleases self, love considers others' needs. **1 Corinthians 13:5; 10:23-24**

VI. Love Yields Benevolence

A. Love for others is proven through benevolent acts. **1 John 3:17**

VII. Love Shows Kindness

A. More generally, love treats others kindly and compassionately, both in deeds and in speech. **1 Corinthians 13:4; Eph. 4:31-32**

VIII. Love is Not Contentious

A. While love yields positive virtues such as kindness, patience, and forgiveness, love opposes contentious, quarrelsome attitudes. **Galatians 5:14-15**

IX. Love Discourages Sin

A. This is not to say that love tolerates evil. Genuine love discourages sin out of sincere concern for others' souls.
1 Corinthians 13:6; Mark 10:21-22

X. Love Judges Righteously

A. Love for others is also the root of avoiding the sin of partiality. **James 2:8-9**
B. This sin which the Holy Spirit through James condemns is a form of unrighteous judgment. *Righteous* judgment is in many ways a product of love. **John 7:24**

XI. Love Shuns Gossip

A. Love is also the root of overcoming sinful gossip. When the "golden rule" is followed, gossip is rejected.
1 Corinthians 13:7; Proverbs 17:9

XII. Love Opposes Envy

A. Moreover, love rejects the sin of envy. While envy shows discontentment at others' good fortune (especially if such fortune is desired for oneself), love opposes such an attitude. **1 Corinthians 13:4; Matthew 27:18**

XIII. Love Avoids Self-exaltation

A. Genuine love does not seek to exalt self above others. The pride and boastfulness of seeking preeminence is overcome through love. **1 Corinthians 13:4; Matthew 23:5-7**