

**Hurstbourne Baptist Church; June 14, 2020**  
**Sermon Notes on Galatians 5:22**  
**The Fruit of the Spirit: Love**

**Review**

- When Christians place their faith in Jesus Christ, they receive a new **heart** and a new **spirit** (Ezekiel 36:26; Galatians 4:2).

**Sermon Outline**

- What is love?
- Why is it important?
- How do we get a heart of love?

**What is love?**

- There are **four** words for love in the Bible (eros, philia, sturge and agape), and the word used in Galatians 5:22 and 1 Corinthians 13 is **agape**.
- When we talk about God's love, we are talking about a divine love characterized by personal **sacrifice** for the good of others.
- The great example of that kind of love in the Bible is found in the **cross** of Jesus Christ.

**Why is it important?**

- Without love, all of our religious works mean **nothing**.
  - "Love is of such a nature that it will produce all virtue...without it, there can be no sincere virtue. Indeed, there is no sincerity in obedience that is performed without love, for if there is no love, then all must be forced" (Edwards, *Charity*, 10-11).
  - "Love is the heart and soul of the Pauline ethic, for it is love that fulfills the law" (Schreiner, *Galatians*, 349).
  - "Love is the foundational virtue that binds God's people together, even into eternity" (Carson, *Showing the Spirit*, 75).

**How do we get a heart of love?**

- The Lord must **pour** His love into our hearts (Romans 5:5).
- For Christians, the Lord causes our hearts to **increase** in love (1 Thessalonians 3:12).