THEME: MANIFESTING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
TOPIC: LOVE - SEEKING ANOTHER PERSON'S GOOD
TEXT: GALATIANS 5:22, JOHN 13:34-35, I CORINTH. 13:4-7, 1 JOHN 3:16-18

Introduction: What Is Growing in Your Life?
The first and foundational expression of the fruit of the Spirit is love. In fact, all the other aspects of the fruit of the Spirit are rooted in and flow from genuine love. Love is more than an emotion, a preference, or kind words.
Biblical love is a deliberate choice to seek another person's good, even when doing so requires sacrifice, humility, forgiveness, and self-denial.
In today's world, love is often defined by feelings, convenience, or personal benefit. However, God's love is different. God's love is active, sacrificial, and transformational. It is demonstrated not merely by what we say but by what we do. As believers, we are called to manifest this same love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Key truth: Spirit-grown love moves beyond warm feelings into patient, truthful, and practical care for others.

Key Lessons from the Love – Seeking Another Person's Good.
5. Love Shows Itself Through Practical Acts of Service.
Love is often revealed in seemingly small actions. Many opportunities to demonstrate love occur in ordinary daily interactions.
Biblical Example: The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:30-37 – While others passed by the injured man, the Samaritan stopped to help, cared for him, and provided for his recovery.
Lesson: Love notices needs and responds with action.
Question: Whose needs might I be overlooking?

6. Love Encourages and Restores Others.
Love believes the best, supports growth, and offers hope.
Biblical Example: Barnabas and Saul
Acts 9:26-27 – When believers feared Saul because of his past, Barnabas welcomed him, vouched for him, and helped him gain acceptance among the disciples.
Lesson: Love gives people room to grow and be restored by God's grace.
Question: Am I helping others move forward in God's purpose?

Practical Applications of Showing Love
1. Practice Intentional Listening
One of the greatest expressions of love is giving people your full attention.
Application
- Listen without interrupting.
- Put away distractions.
- Seek to understand before responding.

James 1:19 – "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

2. Express Appreciation
Love recognizes and values others.
Application
- Thank family members for unseen acts of service.
- Encourage church workers.
- Acknowledge colleagues who contribute behind the scenes.

Romans 12:10 – "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love."

3. Serve Without Seeking Recognition
Love serves because it desires to glorify God, not because it desires applause.
Application

- Help someone anonymously.
- Volunteer where there is need.
- Support others without expecting repayment.

Matthew 6:3-4 – But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything…….

4. Forgive While Maintaining Wise Boundaries
Forgiveness is a powerful expression of love, but forgiveness does not eliminate wisdom.
Application

- Release resentment.
- Pray for offenders.
- Establish healthy boundaries where necessary.

Ephesians 4:31-32 – Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behaviour. Instead, be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another….

5. Pray for Others Consistently
Intercession is one of the most practical ways to love people.
Application

- Keep a prayer list.
- Pray for family members, church leaders, and those facing challenges.
- Ask God to meet specific needs.

1 Timothy 2:1 – I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.

6. Meet Real Needs in Other People's Life
Look for opportunities to serve others in practical ways.
Application

- Provide meals.
- Offer transportation.
- Assist someone facing financial difficulty.
- Visit or call someone who feels isolated.

Galatians 6:10 - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Discussion Questions
1. What does biblical love look like in today's culture?
2. When do you find it easiest to love others? When is it most difficult?
3. What is the difference between loving someone and trying to please them at all costs?
4. Why is sacrifice often necessary for genuine love?
5. How can believers balance love, truth, and having healthy boundaries?
6. Who might need your attention more than your advice this week?
7. What practical act of love can you demonstrate this week?

Conclusion

Manifesting the fruit of the Spirit begins with manifesting love. Love is the clearest reflection of God's character and the strongest evidence of a transformed life. Through the Holy Spirit, believers are empowered to move beyond mere words and demonstrate practical, sacrificial, and truthful love toward others.

As we follow the example of Jesus, who loved and served even those who would fail Him, we become channels of God's grace to the people around us. May our homes, workplaces, churches, and communities witness the love of Christ through our actions, attitudes, and relationships.

Let us continually ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate within us a love that seeks not its own interests but the good of others, bringing glory to God and drawing people closer to Christ.