

## Moral Guidelines (7)

### Galatians 5:22

--Intro--Matthew 12:33 "for a tree is known by its fruit."

Vs 22 Fruit—"What has been produced by the Spirit." Christian known by fruit.

Fruits of the Spirit—Godly Characteristics/  
Result of the Holy Spirit working in your  
life/ Overflow.

Seen the works of the flesh--ugliness, fruits  
of the Spirit--beauty.

Question: What is your life producing?  
Works of the flesh or fruit of the Spirit?

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the  
branches. He who abides in Me, and I in  
him, bears **much** fruit; for without Me you  
can do nothing."—John 15:5

Story: Mom and dad's Honey bell—pick-up  
truck load. Limbs loaded to the ground,  
Oranges loaded to the ground, way we are  
supposed to be.

Are you producing a lot of fruit, a little fruit,  
or no fruit?

Story: Mom & dad's honey bell.

John 15:8 "by this My Father is glorified,  
that you bear **much** fruit; so you will be my  
disciples."

"These characteristics are what God looks  
like."

#### 1. Love.

**In the context:** Paul begins with love  
because all of the other fruit is bi-product of  
love.

I Corinthians 13—"Love" is the driving force  
behind Christian character.—Product of H.S.

Love (Charity)—agape—affection—  
benevolence, divine love, the love of God.

**Agape love** is the form of love that most  
reflects personal choice, referring not  
simply to pleasant emotions or good  
feelings but to willing, self-giving sacrifice.

What are teenagers saying about love?  
How would a teenager define love?

When most teenagers think of "love", this is what  
they are talking about. It is the combination of  
friendship, sexual attraction and the search for  
someone to marry. It is the search for the one  
person with whom you can raise your family and  
spend the rest of your life.

More than--heart to race and gives you goose  
bumps./ Treated lightly

True biblical love is action, sacrificial &  
selfless.

#### A few things about love:

##### A) Love is a Spiritual Birthmark.

Proof that you are a believer/John  
McArthur—true agape love is a sure mark  
of salvation.

**I John 3:14** "We know we have passed from  
death to life, because we love the brethren.  
He who does not love his brother abides in  
death."

Question: How in the world can someone say they love God and hate a fellow Christian?—I John 4:20 “liar”

**B) Love is a Spiritual Blessing.** Us/  
Others.

**Romans 5:5** “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been **poured out in our hearts** by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

God gives us the ability to love as He loves!—I John 4:8

Story: Rachel’s unconditional love.

Better—child, parent, spouse, friend, person, Christian. Never be the same.

Story: Asked by a teammate of mine what was the best thing about marriage? Rachel’s unconditional love!!!!

What’s the best thing about being a Christian? Other than my salvation, the unconditional love God.

**I Thes. 4:9** “But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.”

**1a. Love enriches/ enhances.**--It adds significance, meaning, and value to the one being loved. Refines.

- A)** Enhances our existence.
- B)** Enhances our example.

**John 13:35** “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**2a. Love uplifts**—benefits the recipient.

- A)** Uplifts the body.
- B)** Uplifts the believer.

**Phil. 2:4** “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

**3a. Love**--stands the test of time.

- A)** Love will not fail.
- B)** Love will not falter/ fade.

**(Key Point)** *Wayne Hudson--"Love is a commitment with a beginning and no end."-Christ's love.*

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

I Corinthians 13—Turn to.

Story: Ship-wrecked at sea.

## **2. Joy**

**In the context:** “Holy Optimism”—it keeps us pressing on.

In Jesus name we press on! How? We have joy.

**Nehemiah 8:10** “Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

God’s joy stands alone. It cannot be manipulated. Nothing can be added to it, or subtracted from it.

**Romans 14:17** “For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and **joy** in the Holy Spirit.”

Joy—cheerfulness, delight.

**A) Joy is not circumstantial.**

**Joy**—The inward peace and sufficiency that is not affected by outward circumstances.

“You may not be able to rejoice over your circumstances, but you can rejoice in them.”—Heartache, family issues, school, life, etc.

**Hebrews 12:2** “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the **joy** that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”—Other side of that horrible exp.

I Peter 1:8 “Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy **inexpressible** and full of glory...”

Inexpressible—cannot be described in human terms. Words would fail us.

**B) Joy is substantial.** Gift of God.

Substantial- of ample or considerable amount; of real worth, value, or effect.

**Philippians 4:4** “Rejoice in the Lord **always**. Again I will say, rejoice.”

Always—duration, regularly, earnestly.

Joy is completely experienced by our obedience to the Lord.

**John 15:10, 11** “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His

love...**11**...These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

**Closing story:**

As a third-century man was anticipating death, he penned these last words to a friend: “It’s a bad world, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people are the Christians—and I am one of them.”