

LOVE IS NOT A FEELING
Bearing the Fruit of Love Series – Part 1 of 5
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"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness," Gal 5:22 (NKJV)

1. Love is not a feeling because feelings are REACTIVE but God is LOVE and God is PROACTIVE

- There is not a single emotion listed in the manifestations of love listed in 1 Cor. 13:4 – 7.

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." 1Co 13:4-7 (NKJV)

2. If love becomes about how we feel, it becomes SELFISH.

- Feelings are about us. Once it is about us, it is selfish and it is no longer LOVE.
- God's kind of love is ALWAYS SELFLESS – it is other-centered and self-sacrificial

3. Therefore, the opposite of love is not hatred, it is judgment.

- To judge is to determine something as either good or bad based on some law or standard.
- We must transcend or go above laws in order to love.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love...Against such there is no law." Gal 5:22-23 (NKJV)

4. Since Love is NOT a feeling, it must be a GIFT we give in response to God's love

"We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also." 1Jn 4:19-21 (NKJV)

- The fruit of love is the Holy Spirit expressing His love through us to people.
- The ultimate goal of your loving someone is so that they may know that God loves them.
- God's Love is HOME. Human hearts are restless until they come home to God's Love!

Take Home Assignment

Write down 3 specific people you would like to give the gift of love to this week, irrespective how good or bad they may be or how you feel about them.

For each person, briefly describe how you can create a no-judgement zone for them, a place where they can be free to be “naked and yet not ashamed”, a safe zone, a HOME in God’s Love for them to find REST for their restless hearts.

Remember, they do not have to reciprocate!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
