

A Lifestyle of Love and Gentleness

Skip Gray

I. Introduction.

II. Source of love.

A. The fruit of the Spirit is love. (Ephesians 5:22)

B. The highest form of love is *agape*, which describes divine love and spousal love. (Ephesians 1)

C. When we sin against the Holy Spirit, this kind of love is shut off: we lie (Acts 5), grieve (Ephesians 4:30) and quench (I Thessalonians 5:19) the Holy Spirit.

III. Characteristics of love. (I Corinthians 13)

A. Love is more important than ministry.

B. Ministry without love is empty.

IV. Illustration of love. (Luke 15)

A. Love is generous.

B. Love gives.

C. Love releases.

D. When we are saved, we are forgiven, given family membership and equipped to walk through life. God received us unconditionally, and we need to do the same.

V. Application. Learn to say, "I love you" and say it often.

Application:

1. How does God model the way we are expected to love?

2. What does love look like practically?

3. How will you challenge yourself to stretch yourself in love this week? Explain.
