WEEK 2: Love (*Agapē*)

*Walk by the Spirit… The fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.* *(Galatians 5:16, 22-23)*

Q: What is culture's understanding of love? What do you think people mean by "love is love"?

[EXPLORE: Centrality of Love]

Galatians 5:13-14 (*the fulfillment*) Matthew 22:36-40 (*the greatest*) John 13:34-35 (*the hallmark*)

Q: What does the Bible mean by "love"?

1) LOVE is _____SELF-SACRIFICING_____.

John 15:13
Romans 5:6-8
1 John 4:10
1 John 5:3

Deuteronomy 7:7-8
1 Corinthians 14:1
Colossians 3:14

*Love operates through the **will**.*

Greek word groups for "love":

- *Agape:* sacrificial love for others
- *Philia:* brotherly love of friendship
- *Eros*: sexual love of marriage
- *Storge*: affectionate love of families

"[Biblical] understanding of love cannot be tied only to the *agape* word group…. The best English example is simply the verb *love*. One may use it for sexual intercourse, platonic love, emotional love, the love of God and more. The **context** defines and delimits the word, precisely as it does the verbs for *love* in the pages of holy Scripture."

D. A. Carson pp. 26-28
"The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God"

2) LOVE is _____EMOTIONAL / AFFECTIONATE_____.

Hosea 11:1-9
1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Love operates through the ***heart***.

3) LOVE is _____TRUTHFUL_____.

Ephesians 4:15
1 John 3:16-18

Love operates through the ***mind***.

SUMMARY:

- Love is the foremost in the list of the Spirit's Fruit, the one by which the others operate.
- Love is actively working through our whole selves—our wills, hearts, and minds.
- We distinguish types of love (emotional, sexual, etc.), but Christian love is not *only* sacrificial.