

How the Fruit of the Spirit and the Love of Christ Impacts Your Marriage

What do you think would be the result from a husband and a wife being totally yielded to the Spirit of God in living out the will of God? It would be a relationship characterized by the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). It would produce a marriage made in heaven. The following describe varying aspects of that fruit.

1. Love – a sacrificial commitment to the welfare of another person regardless of that person’s response or what he or she might give to me in return.
2. Joy – a deep , abiding inner thankfulness to God for His goodness that is uninterrupted when less desirable circumstances of life intrude.
3. Peace – during the storms of life, heartfelt tranquility and trust anchored in the overwhelming consciousness that I am in the hand of God.
4. Patience – a quality of self-restraint that does not retaliate in the face of provoking situations.
5. Kindness – a sensitive awareness and willingness to seek out ways in which to serve others.
6. Goodness – an unswerving capacity to deal with people rightly in the best interest of God even when they need correction.
7. Faithfulness – an inner loyalty that results in remaining true to my spiritual convictions and commitments.
8. Gentleness – controlled strength dispensed from a humble heart.
9. Self-Control – an inward personal mastery that submits my desires to the greater cause of God’s will.

If we add the love of Christ to the fruit of the Spirit, we have a marriage that will not fail (1 Cor 13:8). How does our love match up with Christ’s love as outlined in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7?

1. Love is patient – Therefore, I will bear with my spouse’s worst behavior, without retaliation, regardless of the circumstances.
2. Love is kind – Therefore, I will diligently seek ways to be actively useful in my spouse’s life.
3. Love is not jealous – Therefore, I will delight in the esteem and honor given to my spouse.
4. Love does not brag – Therefore, I will not draw attention to myself exclusive of my spouse.
5. Love is not arrogant – Therefore, I know I am not more important than my spouse.
6. Love does not act unbecomingly – Therefore, I will not engage my spouse on ungodly activity.
7. Love does not seek its own – Therefore, I will be marriage and spouse orientated.

8. Love is not provoked – Therefore, I will not resort to anger as a solution to difficulties between myself and my spouse.
9. Love does not take into account a wrong suffered – Therefore, I will never keep an account due on my spouse.
10. Love does not rejoice with unrighteousness – Therefore, I will never delight in my spouse' unrighteous behavior, nor will I join in its expression.
11. Love rejoices with the truth – Therefore, I will find greater joy when truth prevails in y spouse's life.
12. Love bears all things – Therefore, I will be publicly silent about my souse's faults.
13. Love believes all things – Therefore, I will express unshakable confidence and trust in my spouse.
14. Love hopes all things – Therefore, I will confidently expect future victory in my spouse's life, regardless of the present imperfections.
15. Love endures all things – Therefore, I will outlast every assault of Satan to break up our marriage.