

I. REVIEW/INTRO

A. Living under the influence

- There are two currents in life, and we get to choose which one we'll flow with

Galatians 5:16-17 (NLT) So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

- The Under the influence series – this is living under it.
- There are 2 currents, or forces – the flesh and the spirit

B. Fruit is evidence of the Holy Spirit's control in my life

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT) ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

- In Christianity we've confused **information with transformation**. Just because I learned something doesn't mean I've become something.

C. Love is the foundation the other fruit rest on

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT) ⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

D. I love you because

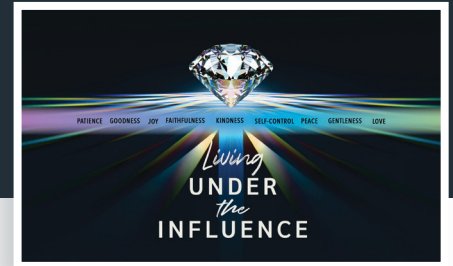
II. LOVE

A. God defines the terms

The Greek word **ἀγάπη (agapē)** — means: **Love, affection, goodwill, benevolence, or devoted concern for another.**

Agapē is a deliberate, self-giving love that seeks the good of another, is demonstrated through commitment and action rather than being dependent upon feelings or reciprocity.

1 John 4:16 (NKJV) And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.



B. God doesn't just give us a definition—He gives us a demonstration.

- John 3:16
- 1 John 4:10
- Romans 5:8
- Luke 6:35
- Galatians 5:22

Romans 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

C. Walking the talk

1 John 2:4-6 (NKJV) He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

1 John 2:4 (The Message) If someone claims, "I know him well!" but doesn't keep his commandments, he's obviously a liar. His life doesn't match his words.

III. THE RECEIPTS

A. Falling in love

Colossians 3:12-14 (NKJV) ¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

- Love isn't merely something we fall into; it's something intentionally worn into everyday interactions.

B. We dress according to the environment we're about to enter.

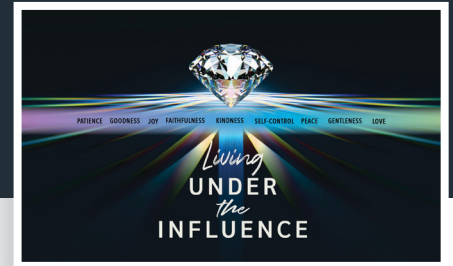
Romans 13:14 (NKJV) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

- Don't let where you are determine what you wear
- You decide what you're wearing before you walk into the room.
- You can't command a feeling

IV. WHY PUT ON THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

A. Why did God love the world?

1 John 4:19 (NKJV) We love Him because He first loved us.



Luke 6:32 (NKJV) “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

Luke 6:35 (NKJV) ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

B. Sinners love those who love them

- When we love people who aren't loving us, kind to people who don't deserve it, patient with people who frustrate us, and when we love our enemies...We're showing them something they may never have seen before. **We're showing them what God is like.** This is why the fruit matters

C. Don't forget the source, remain and abide in Him

John 15:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ “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 15:8-10 (NKJV) ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. ⁹ “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ 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.

- This wasn't nine weeks of: “Try to be more patient.” “Try to have more joy.” “Try to be nicer.” “Try harder to control yourself.” No.
- This has always been about: **STAY CONNECTED TO THE VINE.**

John 13:34-35 (NLT) ³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

- This series started with “influence” and ends with “evidence”