

Fragrances, Study 3

# **THE INGREDIENTS TO THE BEST LOVE FRAGRANCE IN THE CHURCH**

*Now that you have made your souls pure by obeying the truth, you can have true love for your Christian brothers and sisters. So love each other deeply with all your heart.*

**First Peter 1:22 (NCV)**

## **Recap**

1. We have seen that the Scriptures describes God's love for us like a sweet smelling \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (2Cor. 2:14; Song of Solomon)
2. God's love for us is *agapé* love: the highest form of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ love. It goes beyond mere friendship, it transcends physical love, it is more intense than affection.
3. Now we will see that there are different ingredients to \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ love. . .

## **Beware of Cheap Imitations!**

*"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."*

**John 15:13 (NKJV)**

4. This statement of Christ's, not only encompasses possible physical death in the cause of others, but it involves continual \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . To lay down means to surrender.

The Greek word for "life" is **psuché** (this is the word from which we get our English word - psychology) which is most commonly translated "soul", which encompasses the entire person- body and spirit.

- 5. Paul warns that merely physically dying for others may not be \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ love (1 Cor. 13:3).
- 6. Knowing the Scriptures, moving in the gifts of the Spirit, and having the ability to exercise great faith, are not the measures of a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Christian. (1 Cor. 13:2)

*Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.*

**First Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)**

Matthew Henry wrote-

*There is no proof of ignorance more common than conceit of knowledge. Much may be known, when nothing is known to good purpose. And those who think they know any thing, and grow vain (proud) thereon, are the least likely to make good use of their knowledge. Satan hurts some as much by tempting them to be proud of mental powers, as others, by alluring to sensuality. Knowledge which puffs up the possessor, and renders him confident, is as dangerous as self-righteous pride, though what he knows may be right. Without holy affections (love) all human knowledge is worthless.*

## **15 Secret Herbs & Spices**

Paul lists 15 attributes of agape love (note the verse, and then a brief description of each).

- 1. Patient \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Kind \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Does not envy \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Does not brag or boast \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Is not proud \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Is not rude \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Is not selfish \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Does not get upset with others (is not easily provoked) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Keeps no record of wrongs \_\_\_\_\_

10. Is not happy with evil \_\_\_\_\_
11. Is very happy about the truth \_\_\_\_\_
12. It protects, and accepts responsibility patiently \_\_\_\_\_
13. It always trusts \_\_\_\_\_
14. It always hopes \_\_\_\_\_
15. It always remains strong \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Obligations***

1. In John 15, Jesus describes us as branches, and Himself as the vine to which the branches are attached. He said that if we follow Him we will love, and as a result be filled with the Father's love.
2. As we love, we will be filled with joy (John 15:11)
3. Do a spiritual check-up against the 15 ingredients of agapé love. Real Christian maturity is measured by our *love*, not our *degrees*, or our ability to work miracles.

*Amen.*

**Next Study:** *Smells From The Home, Hospitality and Ministry*

### **ANSWER KEYS**

1. perfume 2. selfless 3. agapé 4. serving 5. agapé 6. genuine