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# CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES

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JANUARY 11, 2026  
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

# I. SERMON RECAP

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In this week's sermon, Pastor Gary unfolded the profound distinctiveness of Christianity as a "religion of love." Using Galatians 5, Pastor Gary emphasized that love is the cornerstone of the Spirit's fruit, nurturing other virtues like joy, peace, and kindness. He invited the congregation to reflect on whether their lives are truly established in God's love, emphasizing the importance of love's unconditional nature in transforming relationships and communities.

Pastor Gary delved into how the battle between the flesh and the Spirit affects our ability to love purely. He encouraged attendees to remove the obstacles within us, such as pride and bitterness, that hinder the free flow of God's love. By doing so, the fruit of the Spirit can genuinely manifest in our lives, helping us discern our identity as Christians.

In closing, Pastor Gary left us with an assurance of spiritual progress, urging everyone to yield to God's Spirit, letting His love flow freely through us. As we walk this path, may we become living testaments of His boundless grace and compassion, demonstrating His divine love to the world.

## Chapters:

The Distinction of Love

Establishing Love in Our Lives

The Battle Between Flesh and Spirit

The Divine Flow of Love

Becoming Embassies of Love

# II. STUDY GUIDE

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## Key Points:

- Foster both personal prayer and community prayer, embracing love as the central theme.
- Understand and live by your identity in Christ, rooted in love.
- Cultivate a worship-first posture: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.
- Practice stillness before God to sense His love moving within.
- Love as the foremost fruit of the Spirit, enabling other virtues.

## Key Scripture:

**Galatians 5:22-23:** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love joy peace forbearance kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness and self-control Against such things there is no law [NIV]."

**Proverbs 16:3:** "Commit to the Lord whatever you do and he will establish your plans [NIV]."

**Galatians 5:1, 13-18:** Explore themes of freedom in Christ and resisting the flesh.

## Other Relevant Verses:

**John 4:8:** Explores God's essential nature as love.

**Romans 6:6:** Discusses being crucified with Christ to overcome sin.

**Ephesians 4:22-24:** Relates to putting off the old self for a new identity.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7:** Classic exposition of what love is and is not.

**Romans 8:6:** Explains life in the Spirit versus life in the flesh.

**Colossians 3:14:** Speaks of love binding everything in perfect unity.

**John 15:12-13:** Jesus commands us to love one another as He loves us.

**Matthew 22:36-40:** Reinforces the greatest commandments centered on love.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15:** The love of Christ compels us in all actions.

# III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

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## Day 1: Established in Love

Question: Is my life visibly rooted in God's love?

Reading: Galatians 5:22-23

Devotional: The fruit of the Spirit begins with love, the glue holding together virtues like peace and joy. Evaluate your daily interactions; assess whether they reflect God's love. As His ambassadors, our love must be evident and welcoming.

Challenge: Identify one person you can express God's love to, in a genuine and selfless way.

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## Day 2: Free to Love

Question: What holds me back from loving fully?

Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-14

Devotional: You've been called to freedom, not of the flesh but of the Spirit. Are there habits or past struggles that keep you from embracing love? Christ's sacrifice puts these burdens to rest if we allow Him.

Challenge: Write down one fear or past hurt you need to release to love more fully. Pray over it.

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## Day 3: Love in Action

Question: How is love active in my daily routine?

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Devotional: Actions express love more loudly than words. Consider love's attributes: patient, kind, without envy. Strive to live love daily and watch as it influences others splendidly.

Challenge: Record an act of kindness daily that reflects 1 Corinthians 13 love.

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## Day 4: Flesh vs. Spirit

Question: Have I crucified the flesh to allow the Spirit to flow freely?

Reading: Romans 6:6, Ephesians 4:22-24

Devotional: Flesh wars against the Spirit. Living by the Spirit demands sacrifice, tossing aside inhibitions tied to pride and bitterness. Embrace your new self in Christ to become conduits of love.

Challenge: Fast from a negative habit to deepen your walk with the Spirit and enhance love.

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#### Day 5: Unity in Love

Question: Am I contributing to unity and peace through love?

Reading: Colossians 3:14, John 15:12-13

Devotional: Love edifies, heals divisions, and forms unity. Christ exemplified sacrificial love. In embracing similarly, you foster a community that understands and witnesses the strength of unified love.

Challenge: Reach out and mend a fractured relationship with love and grace.

# IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

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## Opening:

Welcome everyone warmly. Begin with a heartfelt prayer inviting God's Spirit to illuminate our discussion on love, unity, and transformation.

## Sermon Recap Theme:

Pastor Gary's message on love as the primary fruit of the Spirit challenges us to evaluate our hearts' capacity to love purely.

## **Points:**

- The distinctive nature of Christian love
- Freedom in Christ enabling genuine love
- Transformation through the unity of Spirit and Love

## Icebreaker Question:

Share a moment this past week where someone showed you a genuine act of love and how it impacted you.

## Scripture Exploration:

### **Read**

Galatians 5:22-23

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Romans 6:6

### **Reflect**

How does Paul describe love in these verses?

What are the implications of living by the Spirit?

Discuss the personal impact of unconditional, divine love.

How does a life established in love look in practical terms?

What role does self-control play in maintaining a loving relationship?

Which attributes of love can you work on this week?

### **Takeaways Discussion:**

How do these scriptures collectively inspire a more profound sense of community?

What changes can we make individually to reflect more love in our interactions?

How might this understanding affect our church as a whole?

### **Application:**

Encourage participants to integrate love as a foundational aspect of their prayers and actions, personally and within the community.

Focus on vulnerability and transparency in relationships grounded in love.

### **Closing:**

Share any specific prayer requests within the group and encourage praying for the capacity to love and be loved deeply.

**Leader Notes:**

Encourage openness and listen actively.

Ensure everyone feels welcome and valued.

Gently guide discussions that might veer off-topic, looping them back to love as the central theme.

Foster an atmosphere where genuine prayer and spiritual growth can flourish.