

**Love**  
**1 Corinthians 13**  
**May 29, 2022**

**Three kinds of love:**

**Eros – Romantic**

**Philia – Brotherly Love**

**Agape – Godly love**

Agape - active love of God for His Son and His people.

Goodwill, benevolence and willful delights in the object of love.

Involves faithfulness, commitment and act of the will.

Divine love, or *agapē*. This is another term used in the New Testament and refers to a love not of emotions or feelings but of the will and of choice. This type of love can be defined as the steady intention of the will to another's highest good. It is an ongoing benevolence—willing (-volence) what's good or best (bene-) for another.

*Agape* love = the steady intention of the will to another's highest good.

God is the source of this kind of *agapē* love: “We love, because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19). This love is characterized by unselfishness and giving, even to the point of sacrifice. It's an unconditional love that doesn't judge based on performance.<sup>1</sup>

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> 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.*

**1 John 4:7-16**

*So he answered and said, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”*

**Luke 10:27**

*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

**Ephesians 2:4-5**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://kenboa.org/living-out-your-faith/five-loves-greatest-agape/>

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Romans 5:8**

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* **John 13:34**

*But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

**Matthew 5:44-45**

*By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

**1 John 3:16**

**Have I received God's love?**

**Love is a choice!**

**Love and abide go hand in hand!**

**Jonathan Swift in Gulliver's Travels said, "We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another."**

**Love is enriching. (vs. 1-3)**

**Love is edifying and enabling. (vs. 4-7)**

**Love is enduring. (vs. 8-13)**

There was a bishop. His name was Bishop Usher. And, he lived in Ireland, and he was shipwrecked off the coast of Ireland. Whether that was his home or not, I know not, but he was shipwrecked off the coast of Ireland and made his way to the shore, found a clergyman, and asked the clergyman if he would take him in. The clergyman looked him up and down and said, "Well, who are you?" And, he said, "I am Archbishop Usher." And, this minister looked at him, and he didn't look much like an archbishop bedraggled and wet. He said, "How do I know that you are the archbishop that you say that you are? I'm going to give you a Bible test and see if you can pass the test. And, if you can pass the test, I'll give you all the help you need." Archbishop Usher said, "All right." And so, the preacher said to the archbishop, "How many commandments are there?" And, the archbishop said, "There are eleven." He said, "Aha! You are an imposter." He said, "If you can name an eleventh commandment, I'll give you all the help you'll need." And, he quoted what the Apostle John said, "*A new commandment give I unto you, that [you] love one another; [even] as I have loved you*" (John 13:34). And, he said, "Come in. You know the Bible better than I do."<sup>2</sup>

Any other motive than love for the Lord, ultimately, are wrong motives.

**Prayer Focus:**

- **Have I received God's love?**
- **Why do I do what I do?**
- **Am I loving with God's love?**

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<sup>2</sup> Adrian Rogers