



The Eternal Love of the Lord

“Now before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that His hour had come [and it was time] for Him to leave this world *and* return to the Father. **Having [greatly] loved His own who were in the world, He loved them [and continuously loves them with His perfect love] to the end (eternally).**” John 13:1

“...just as Christ also loved the Church.... Eph. 5:25

The Greek word ‘Agape’ used in this passage is a word familiar to us and is often defined as ‘unconditional love.’ It is the most essential characteristic of God’s nature. He is love. This is the perfect love of the Father, which He has toward His beloved Son, Jesus. The most perfect expression of His love among men is Jesus Christ. Jesus has given us this love to each of us and to His Church. Ask the Spirit to apply our understanding of Christ’s love personally, as well as for the whole body of believers. Ask the Lord to instill this love in us, as imitators of Christ, to walk in the same manner that He walked. Christian love is the fruit of His Spirit which shapes our attitudes towards one another. Pray that we will reflect Christ’s love given us in our relationship with others. 2 Cor. 5:14; 3:19; 5:2

Agape (G25)

- ♥ God is the author and source of all true love because He is love.
- ♥ Agape love does not arise from merit or elicited by the excellency of its objects. It is the exercise of divine will.
- ♥ Agape love is a deliberate choice, coming from His divine nature. Although Agape love includes great affection, it is not borne out of the emotions, but is an intelligent decision of the will.
- ♥ Agape love gives without expectation of return and does not need to be reciprocated.
- ♥ Agape is a love that is called out of the heart by His sense of the value He holds toward us which causes us to be prized in His sight. Agape love means to esteem highly.
- ♥ Agape love sacrifices itself for the object loved, whether the object loved is worthy or not. This self-sacrificial love impels one to give himself in self-sacrifice for the well-being of the one who is loved.
- ♥ Agape love is born out of devotion and not out of emotion. Not subject to change based on moods.
- ♥ Agape love entails God doing what is best for men and not necessarily what man desires. It is not motivated by a desire to please the one loved or give them what they want, but choosing to show them favor through whatever means will bring greatest blessing. This can include discipline or even punishment.
- ♥ Agape is highly consistent and steadfast. His love is constant and unrelenting, even though we are unworthy beings.
- ♥ Agape love is an enduring love, everlasting with no ending.

- ♥ Agape love has ethical qualities of responsibility toward the object loved which creates a readiness to serve.
- ♥ Agape love means to find one's joy or delight in the one who is loved.
- ♥ Agape love includes respect for the one loved.
- ♥ Agape love It is firm and loyal. Agape love causes one to serve with great faithfulness.
- ♥ Agape love means to regard with favor—His face is shined upon us.
- ♥ Agape love means to exhibit compassion and kindness.
- ♥ Agape love sees the other's need and seeks to provide that need, even when the one who is loved has not discerned that need.
- ♥ We are told to love (agape) our enemies, but never told to have phileo (friendship) with them.
- ♥ Apagao type love actually originates from the Holy Spirit in us activating our will and enabling our mind to display selfless love. There is no natural way to display genuine selfless love other than by reliance on the supernatural empowerment of the Spirit. In short agapao is not humanly possible except by divine enablement! Agapao is used predominantly for man's love toward God while phileo is rarely used in this manner.

Phileo love (G5368)

- ♥ Phileo love describes the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit toward one another. It is also characterized in the relationship between David and Jonathan.
- ♥ Phileo is a love based in our feelings, warm affection, the kind of love expressed by a kiss.
- ♥ Phileo is based on the qualities in another person that you find admirable or attractive
- ♥ It is a love rooted in the emotions and expresses the tender affection to be a friend.
- ♥ It expresses a fondness for an individual or an object
- ♥ Phileo denotes a personal attachment, as a matter of sentiment or feelings.
- ♥ God's love for mankind is described with both agape and phileo love.
- ♥ Phileo is a love born out of friendship based on having common interests, as believers, we adopt God's interests as our own.
- ♥ Phileo love cannot be commanded but must be developed and nurtured.
- ♥ Phileo is a fellowship type love manifested in a living and growing relationship between two friends.
- ♥ Phileo love does feed on response, and it cannot survive long without response from the other. Friendship love requires attention.
- ♥ Phileo love gives as long as it receives and thus is a conditional love.

