

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: WEEK 2

LOVE

MEANING



1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-2:

- 1. *THOUGH I SPEAK WITH THE TONGUES OF MEN AND OF ANGELS, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I HAVE BECOME SOUNDING BRASS OR A CLANGING CYMBAL.***
- 2. *AND THOUGH I HAVE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY, AND UNDERSTAND ALL MYSTERIES AND ALL KNOWLEDGE, AND THOUGH I HAVE ALL FAITH, SO THAT I COULD REMOVE MOUNTAINS, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I AM NOTHING.***

SCRIPTURE



1 CORINTHIANS 13

1 PETER 3:8-9

JAMES 2:23

GALATIANS 6:10

GENESIS 33:4

ROMANS 12:17-21

PSALM 103:10-14

PSALM 119:27-35

MATTHEW 22:36-40

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-30

PROVERBS 16:8

TO KNOW HIM MORE...



LOVE:

- RECAP: God is developing FRUIT in His children.
- This FRUIT (singular) has the characteristics or qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, & self-control.
- The Fruit of the Spirit are not “fruits” but rather “Fruit”; they are to be looked at as a “whole”, which means they grow equally and are of equal importance.
- The first characteristic/ quality mentioned is love.
- Love is the foundational quality of the Fruit of The Spirit.

4 TYPES OF LOVE:

EROS LOVE:

- In Greek mythology, EROS love was taken from the Greek belief in a “god” of love called Eros.
- Eros refers to romantic or passionate love characterized by desire, attraction, and intimacy between partners.
- It encompasses romantic love’s physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects, the love between husband and wife.



- God created the physical attraction between a man and a woman to be a longing and a desire for one another; He did not intend it to be what it has become in today's society.
- True and holy intimacy can only be experienced when God ordains and redeems it!
- Anything outside of God is a cheap imitation!

PHILEO LOVE:

- Phileo refers to friendship or brotherly love, characterized by mutual affection, trust, and camaraderie.
- This love exists between friends and companions sharing common interests, experiences, and values.
- "Brotherly love" or "love as brothers" is from the Greek word "philadelphus"; the church named Philadelphia was one of the six churches in Revelation.
- A person who has "phileo" love for another, places that person in a high personal position.
- Peter is exhorting fellow Christians to love one another as if "blood related"; in essence, to love a friend like a brother or sister!
- One important characteristic of phileo love is the adoption or sharing of like or common interests.
- The Greek word used for "friend" here is "philos"
- The scripture is not saying that God and Abraham were friends as we would think they are in today's standards, but Abraham adopted God's interests as his own and that was why he was called a "friend" or "philos" of God.
- PHILEO love can also bring people together over interests that are evil in nature; sometimes the root of so-called friendship is not always positive or righteous in nature; Making friends for the common good or evil.
- We should do good to others but especially to those who are of the household of faith!
- We are brothers and sisters in Christ, that should bring us closer together not divided against each other.
- Jesus' relationship with his disciples went beyond religious organization or student/teacher.
- He called them friends: "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).
- A close bond of friendship and mutual trust existed between Jesus and his followers through shared experiences and intimate relationship.
- People often cite the friendship between David and Jonathan as modeling phileo love.
- Despite different backgrounds and their relationship causing conflicts within Jonathon's family, David and Jonathan form a deep and enduring friendship characterized by mutual respect and loyalty.
- First Samuel 18:1 says, "As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul."
- The Bible reveals Paul's relationship with his disciple Timothy as a deep and affectionate bond.
- In Philippians 2:20, Paul describes Timothy as genuinely caring for others: "... I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare."
- Timothy's sincere and selfless devotion to people reflected the essence of phileo love.



STORGE LOVE:

- Greek uses storge love to describe natural affection and loyalty in family relationships when expressing love among close family.
- This love exists between parents and children, siblings, and other family members
- It is rooted in kinship bonds and shared experiences.
- God instituted the family in the beginning, as well, before the Fall.
- After years of estrangement and conflict, Jacob prepares to meet Esau, fearing for his safety but desiring reconciliation.
- When they finally meet, Esau runs to embrace Jacob, “and Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.”
- Despite past grievances, this emotional reunion illustrates the enduring bond of familial affection and forgiveness.
- The book of Ruth provides a beautiful example of storge love between Ruth, a Moabite woman, and her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi.
- After their husbands die, Ruth chooses to remain with Naomi and accompany her to Bethlehem, declaring, “Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge.
- Your people shall be my people, and your God my God”.
- Ruth’s devotion to Naomi demonstrates a deep and abiding loyalty and affection, rooted in their familial relationship. God rewards Ruth’s character through Boaz’s redemption.
- Jesus modeled the love for parents and family, especially with his mother.
- The Gospels depict moments of tender affection and concern between Jesus and Mary, such as Jesus’ care for His mother from the cross, when he entrusts her to a beloved disciple who will care for her (John 19:26-27).
- This act demonstrates Jesus’ storge love, reflecting the family’s natural affection and bond.

AGAPE LOVE:

- Agape love is the highest and greatest form of love in Scripture; This divine love stands in a class all its own.
- Agape is not much as a feeling as it is a response.
- When God commands us to agape; He is not commanding us toward a feeling but to surrender to an act of obedience in emulating the Holy Spirit.
- Agape is not fueled by the desire of the recipient; it is fueled by the need.
- For God so loved (agape) the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.
- Agape represents unconditional, selfless, and sacrificial love, which God demonstrates toward humanity.
- When we follow Christ, God calls us to emulate and express this love in our relationships with others.
- Agape seeks all people’s eternal well-being and interests, even at great personal cost.



CHARACTERISTICS OF AGAPE LOVE:

AGAPE IS PATIENT:

- The Greek word used here is makrothumia.
- It's a person who is able to avenge himself yet refrains from doing so. As fallen human beings, we are still trapped in a body that desires sinful things.

AGAPE IS KIND:

- The Greek word for kind is *chresteuomai*; Means to show oneself useful or helpful, to volunteer.

AGAPE DOES NOT ENVY:

- The Greek word here is *zeloo*; It means to be zealous and connotes a passionate sense of jealousy.
- Envy is a painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage.

AGAPE DOES NOT BOAST:

- The Greek word is *perpereuomai* meaning to brag; comes from the root word "braggart".
- We should only boast in God; without Him we are nothing!

AGAPE IS NOT PROUD:

- **PROVERBS 16:8:** *Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.*

AGAPE IS NOT ARROGANT OR RUDE:

- It means to behave in an ugly, indecent, unseemly or unbecoming manner.
- As Spirit-filled Christians we should immediately since when the The Holy Spirit is offended in the presence of someone who is acting in such manner.
- He will warn you; convict you if you are indeed the one acting in such manner.

AGAPE IS NOT SELFISH OR SELF-SEEKING:

- Self-seeking is the polar opposite of agape.; It seeks the highest and best for another.
- Preferring someone over yourself.

AGAPE IS NOT RESENTFUL; IRRITABLE OR EASILY ANGERED:

- Slow to anger; self-control.
- We cannot be rich in love and quick to anger; the two cannot not exist together!

AGAPE KEEPS NO RECORDS OF WRONGS:

- Does not revel in keeping records of human's failures

AGAPE DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL BUT REJOICES IN TRUTH:

- David was a man after God's own heart; he even knew the pain of truth exposed, but he knew that as long as he pursued God and learned his ways, freedom and true joy would follow.



AGAPE BEARS ALL THINGS/ ALWAYS PROTECTS:

- It doesn't say, "this far and no further."
- Love is not limited by what is reasonable or by what other people would be willing to put up with.
- This does not mean that someone should allow him- or herself to continually be wounded, physically or otherwise, by other believers or family members. Sometimes love bears pain from a safe and legal distance, but truly godly love doesn't quit when others become annoying or difficult to deal with.
- The Greek word for protect is *stego*; means to cover in silence.
- It simply means that agape love does not expose the faults in others.
- No matter how well we know someone, we would never expose their faults to others.
- Love/ Agape covers a multitude of sin.
- Be quick to cover in love when Satan urges you to expose and destroy!

AGAPE BELIEVES ALL THINGS:

- Does not mean to make love gullible, but it is the choice to believe those who may be deceiving us removes the burden to catch others in the act of lying and projects onto them a respect they may or may not deserve.
- Our sinful nature leans toward being skeptical of others, especially if that person has already proven themselves untrustworthy.
- The one who carries the burden to be truthful or to be held accountable has to answer to God and not to us.
- How can we hold against them what God has already forgiven and put under the blood.
- We become agents of Satan as the accuser of the brethren when we do not forgive and release!

AGAPE HOPES ALL THINGS:

- Love roots for victory in others, for good to win, for truth to come out.
- In the Bible, hope is a confidence that God will do as He says.
- Paul began this letter by saying to the Corinthians that Christ will "sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:8).
- His confident hope for them was one evidence of his love for them.

AGAPE ENDURES ALL THINGS:

- Christians face hard times.
- Those who choose to love as Jesus does do not stop loving when life becomes difficult.
- Love for God and others endures through tough days and long nights.
- Agape "hangs in there" when other leave or their strength wanes!

AGAPE NEVER FAILS:

- Agape is never without effect; it is never in vain!
- Whether HE calls us to be the receivers or the givers, love is never in vain!
- If/When God calls you to love a difficult person with His love, please know that your obedience will never be in vain.



SCRIPTURE OF REFLECTION



MATTHEW 22:36-40:

36. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

**37. And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

38. This is the great and first commandment.

39. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

40. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”



REFLECTION/NOTES

