
The Three Faces of Love, Part I (EROS: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly)

First Love

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Sermon: First Love: The Three Faces of Love, Part I (EROS: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly)

Lesson Text

Genesis 29:18–20 (KJV)¹⁸ And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. ¹⁹ And Laban said, *It is* better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. ²⁰ And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him *but* a few days, for the love he had to her.

Revelation 2:2–4 (KJV)² **I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ³ And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. ⁴ Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**

Galatians 5:17–19 (KJV)¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. ¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Introduction

Today we will begin a three-part miniseries of teaching on the three types of love that God has given us to impact the lives of each other directly.

John 13: ³⁴ **A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵ By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

The three forms of love:

- Eros: which is passion and intimacy between a man and woman, designed to meet needs.
- Phileo: which is a high and noble form of brotherly love, affection and friendship.
- Agape: which is the highest form of love, deriving from God, and based on will not emotions

In order to be truly identified as one of Christ's disciples, we must possess each of these forms of Love, that I call "The Three Faces of Love."

Today's message will look at Eros.

Genesis 2: ¹⁸ And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

God didn't just create the woman for the man and the man for the woman, but he created a love between them with a desire to meet the needs of each other.

Their lives would be better because their mate was in their lives meeting their needs.

This love was so powerful, that we see in our lesson text that Jacob agreed to serve seven years just for the opportunity to love Rachael.

But as powerful and good as eros love is, it also has a bad and even ugly side. Because it is human based, without the power of God, our imperfections and failures can pull us out of balance, and it moves from a love based on giving to a lust based on taking.

Today we will look at this first face of Love and how to deal with its good, bad, and ugly sides.

Series and Sermon: First Love: The Three Faces of Love, Part I (EROS: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly)

(Desire to Give, The Failure to Care, and The Failure to Protect)

I. The Good of EROS Love (Desire to Give)

Genesis 29: ¹⁸ And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

The Good of EROS love is that it was designed to give and meet the needs of its recipient.

When we first fall in love, our desire is to give to the person that we love. We give of ourselves, our times, our gifts, our efforts, our words.

In our lesson text, this love was so strong that Jacob was willing to give 7 years of service to marry her. Genesis 29: ²⁰ And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him *but* a few days, for the love he had to her.

This love was so strong, that even when he was tricked into marrying her older sister, he agreed to work 7 more years for her.

Genesis 29: ²⁵ And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it *was* Leah: and he said to Laban, What *is* this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me? ²⁶ And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.

Genesis 29: ³⁰ And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

At a fifty thousand per year salary, for 14 years, he gave three quarters of a million dollars for love.

John 3: ¹⁶ **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

Ephesians 5: ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;... ²⁸ So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

II. The Bad of EROS Love (Failure to Care)

Revelation 2: ⁴Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

The Bad of EROS love is that it is human based, and our humanity keeps failing. As a result, we develop a Failure to Care.

We were designed to meet each other's needs, but we constantly fail each other, becoming thoughtless and inconsiderate.

Luke 17: ¹ Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!**

Isaiah 64: ⁶ But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Matthew 18: ²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²² Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**

And so, after enough of these failures, we simply stop caring. We get sick and tired of not getting our needs met, we get sick and tired of always giving and never receiving, we get sick and tired of just being sick and tired.

So, we develop a Failure to Care! A failure to care out of ignorance, we just don't know or understand what they want. A failure to care because we are tired: Mark 4:19 (KJV)¹⁹ **And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

The answer is to stop being a victim of another person's failure

Philippians 4: ¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Come unto me all you that labor, and I will give you rest.

III. The Ugly of EROS Love (Failure to Protect)

Galatians 5:¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

The Ugly of EROS love is that it can turn and hurt us. We move from a Failure to Care to a Failure to Protect.

Unmet needs can often be unintentional, but our reactions to unmet needs can develop into intentional harm. Instead of turning to each other, we turn on each other.

1 Corinthians 7: ² Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. ³ Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

But these unmet needs can lead to the betrayal of adultery and fornication, and the destructive behavior of uncleanness and lasciviousness.

When EROS fails to meet our needs, we must not become a victim of their failure, but when EROS attacks us, we must not become a victim of their weakness.

Luke 10: ¹⁹ Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

1 John 4: ⁴ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Three Faces of Love, Part I (EROS: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly))

Lesson Text

- Genesis 29:18–20, Revelation 2:2–4, Galatians 5:17–19

Sermon Outline

- I. *The Good of EROS Love (Desire to Give)***
- II. *The Bad of EROS Love (Failure to Care)***
- III. *The Ugly of EROS Love (Failure to Protect)***

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. Now that the weather it’s warming up, do you prefer sitting outside or inside at restaurants... And what factor makes that your choice?
2. What’s one simple spring activity you genuinely enjoy... Something that helps you slow down and enjoy the season?

II. Into The Bible

1. Case Study: David and Bathseba. Read 2 Samuel 11:2-16. How can eros become selfish or destructive?
2. Read Genesis 29:15-30. Considering how Jacob served for the woman he loved, how can spouses serve today because of their love for one another?

II. Life Application

1. How do you find the strength to forgive and follow God’s way when you are offended and struggling with anger?
2. Jacob was willing to endure a seven-year wait to secure his future with Rachel. How does this challenge our modern instant-gratification, “I want it now,” approach to relationships, goals and commitments?