What is this thing called love?

✓ Love is a feeling of affection that results in self-sacrificing service of the one loved.
✓ Love is a commitment to move toward others with a sincere interest in understanding the deepest longings of their soul and a willingness to help them realize those longings.
✓ Love is Listening to concerns, Overlooking faults, Valuing strengths, and Empathizing with the pain of others.

I Corinthians 13:1-13

“And I show you a still more excellent way. 1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed {the poor;} and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.”

✓ The power of AGAPE.

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I Corinthians 13:1-13

“Love is patient, love is kind, {and} is not jealous; love does not brag {and} is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong {suffered,} 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

✓ The posture of AGAPE.

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✓ The posture of AGAPE.
**What it is**

“patient”

“kind”

“bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

**What it is not**

Challenges to agape love

“patient”

“kind”

“bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

**AGAPE is grace lived from the inside out.**

“is not jealous”

“does not brag”

“is not arrogant”

“does not act unbecomingly”

“does not seek its own”

**Short sighted vision**

**Note what is NOT said!**

✓ There is no mention of feelings or emotion. Is agape distinct from a “feeling”?

✓ There is no mention of sacrificial service or meeting the needs of others. Why?

✓ There is no mention of action per say. I thought “love” was a verb!

✓ There is no mention of social justice or peace making. Does this not count?

**Lessons from this text**

✓ AGAPE is seen in the way it forgets about self in its concern for others. Don’t try to justify self-protective defensiveness with love.

✓ AGAPE is seen in the way it responds to personal injustice. Look at personal injustice as a call to show love.

✓ AGAPE is seen in the way it sees the big picture. Don’t let the immediate circumstances blind you to the big picture.

✓ Charismatic gifts and ministries are temporary. Keep the main thing the main thing.

✓ The gifts are not infallible. Cultivate a humble and teachable spirit.

✓ The mark of spiritual adulthood is AGAPE. Strive to grow in love not just in the competent use of gifts.

I Corinthians 13:1-13

“Love never fails; but if {there are gifts of} prophecy, they will be done away; if {there are} tongues, they will cease; if {there is} knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.”

✓ The permanence of AGAPE.
I Corinthians 13:1-13

“12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

✓ The priority of AGAPE.

Lessons from this text

✓ No one sees clearly in this age. Listen to and learn from others.
✓ No one knows fully in this age. Humility is in order.
✓ Faith, hope, and AGAPE are fundamental to Kingdom living in this age.

What is AGAPE love?

AGAPE is a God given, tenacious, insightful, response of radical grace to the insults and injustices of life.

I Peter 3:8-9

“8 To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.”