

## I Corinthians 13:1-13

### AGAPE

#### 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 **L**istening to concerns, **O**verlooking faults, **V**aluing strengths, and **E**mpathizing with the pain of others.

#### A commitment

αγαπη  
agape

The mind  
and will

A fruit of  
the Spirit

#### A feeling

φιλια  
philia

“warm affection”

στοργη  
storge

“connection”

ερος  
eros

“sexual drive”

επιθυμια  
epithumea

“strong desire”

ευδοκια  
eudokia

“good pleasure”

σπλαγχνα  
splanchna

“tender mercies”

παθος  
pathos

“degrading passion”

#### I Corinthians 13:1-13

“And I show you a still more excellent way. <sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.

#### Lessons from this text

- ✓ **Powerful ministry gifts can function without AGAPE. Just because a person is gifted does not mean they are Godly.**
- ✓ **AGAPE is more than action, it is an attitude. Just because a person gives sacrificially does not mean they are gracious.**
- ✓ **AGAPE is what makes everything in the Kingdom significant and powerful. Just because a person is accomplished does not mean they are significant in God's eyes.**

#### I Corinthians 13:1-13

“<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind, {and} is not jealous; love does not brag {and} is not arrogant, <sup>5</sup> does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong {suffered,} <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

#### ✓ The posture of AGAPE.

#### Challenges to agape love

#### Selfish defenses

#### Sinful offenses

#### What it is not

“is not jealous”  
“does not brag”  
“is not arrogant”  
“does not act unbecomingly”  
“does not seek its own”

“is not provoked”  
“does not take into account a wrong {suffered,}”  
“does not rejoice in unrighteousness but with the truth”

### 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

**Short  
sighted  
vision**

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



“kind”

“patient”

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

“is not jealous”  
“does not brag”  
“is not arrogant”  
“does not act unbecomingly”  
“does not seek its own”

“is not provoked”  
“does not take into account  
a wrong {suffered.}”  
“does not rejoice in  
unrighteousness but with the  
truth”

### 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.

I Corinthians 13:1-13

“<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. <sup>11</sup> 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.**

### Lessons from this text

- ✓ **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

“<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

✓ **The priority of AGAPE.**

### ***What is AGAPE love?***

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

### ***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.**

### **I Peter 3:8-9**

“<sup>8</sup> To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; <sup>9</sup> 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.”