

Loving One Another

A Biblical Perspective

Question: On a note card use 3 words to define love? Have Group Share

A. God's Perfect Love – Explain, Read Scripture

Agape –totally unselfish love that has the capacity to give and keep on giving without expecting in return (**Rom 5:1-11**). It is a love that Values and Serves

1. It is exercised as a choice of your will
2. It has no dependence on feelings
3. It is a love of action no emotion
4. It focuses on what you do & say rather than how you feel
5. It is plugged into an external power source (**Rom 15:30**) - Prayer
6. It loves no matter what
7. God loves all mankind with an agape love

Question: Have you experienced this love from God and how has it impacted your life?

B. Our Calling to Love God and others

1. The teaching of Jesus (Matt 22:34-40)
2. Love God with all your heart, soul and mind
3. Love your neighbor as yourself
4. Children learn about love & marriage as they observe their father & mothers relationship in the home over a period of time (Eph 5:21-33)
5. The link between loving God and loving others (I John 4:7-16)
6. Inseparable
7. Interdependent
8. Intertwined

Question: What does this love look like practically in our relationship with God and others?

C. DNA of Love

1. Involves a purposeful commitment to sacrificial action for another - Selfless
2. Includes powerful emotions but is primarily characterized by commitment
3. Is unconditional, without demands or strings attached
4. Is not stagnant, love must grow or die
5. Giving instead of getting
6. Being other-centered instead of self-centered
7. Accepting others as they are instead of trying to change them into what we want them to be
8. Forgiving instead of holding a grudge
9. Compromising instead of coercing

Question: Identify one of these as a strength and as a weakness. Group Discuss

D. The Description of Love - I Cor. 13:4-8

1. Love is patient- shows forbearance
2. Love is kind - sympathetic, considerate
3. Love is not jealous- not suspicious, hostile
4. Love does not brag - not boastful

5. Love is not arrogant - assert oneself
6. Love is not rude - get your own way
7. Love is not self-seeking - serve and not be served
8. Love is not easily angered- provoked
9. Love keeps no record of wrongs - grudge, bitterness, forgiveness
10. Love does not delight in evil - mourns over sin
11. Love rejoices with the truth. Love always protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres, never fails

Questions: How do you see this perspective on love shaping your relationships in a positive or negative way?

Application: What is one thing you will do this week to better understand how God loves you? What is one thing you can do this week to show your spouse this type of love?

Prayer Requests

Types of Love

Epithuma – strong desire of any kind – sometimes good, sometimes bad

- To set the heart on
- To long for, rightfully or otherwise
- To covet



In marriage, husband and wife should have a strong, physical desire for each other that expresses itself in pleasurable sexual lovemaking.

Infatuation – an emotional and fleshly response to false impressions or mere externals of another that have been overvalued or lusted after

Falling in love – is a spiritual, mental, emotional and physical response to the actual character and total being of another who embodies attributes long sought and admired

Eros – is a passionate and intense love that arouses romantic feelings; it is not always sensual, but includes the idea of yearning to unite with and the desire to possess the beloved. This kind of love is wholly emotional and cannot be summoned at will but appears as a response when all other laws of marriage are set into motion

- Romantic
- Passionate
- Sentimental

Agape – This is an unconditional love that sees beyond the outer surface and accepts the recipient for whom he/she is, regardless of their flaws, shortcomings or faults; the totally unselfish love that has the capacity to give and keep on giving without expecting anything in return.

Agape – values and serves
Phileo – cherishes and enjoys

- It is exercised as a choice of your will
- It has no dependence on feelings
- It is a love of action not emotion

Ephesians 5:22

Romans 5:5 and 15:30

- It focuses on what you do and say rather than how you feel
- It is plugged into an eternal power source
- It loves no matter what

God loves all mankind with an agape love

In addition, God loves those who are in a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

Proverb 5:18-19

Children learn about love and marriage as they observe their fathers and mothers' relationships in the home over a period of time.

Who embodies attributes long sought and admired.

Phileo – refers to an affectionate, warm and tender platonic love. It makes you desire friendship with someone. It cherishes and has a tender affection for the beloved, but always expects a response.

- It is a love of:
 - Relationship – comradeship
 - Sharing, Communication, Friendship
- John 15:19, 11:36, 16:27
- Eros makes lovers, Phileo makes friends

They share each other's thoughts, feelings, attitudes, plans, dreams – the most intimate things they would share with no one else time & interests

Storge – the love a parent has for a child, or a child has for a favorite aunt or uncle. The love a foster parent feels for the children in her care and the love a grandparent feels for the child adopted by his son- and daughter-in-law. It is a comfortable old-shoe relationship comprised of natural affection and a sense of belonging to each other (Rom 12:10)

- To belong
- To be a part of a close-knit circle
- Atmosphere of security