

Understanding the power of Faith and Agape Love:

Part 2 - Agape Love

Galatians 5:6 (KJV) says;

⁶For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

The Bible says in 1 John 4:8 that God is love.

In order for your faith to work, you must walk in the love of God (Agape Love). We need to clearly understand and differentiate the other types of love in the world in order to fully comprehend the love of God.

The Four Types of Love

There are four unique types of love that are found in Scripture.

- 1) Eros – Sensual or Romantic love
- 2) Storge – Family love
- 3) Philia – Brotherly love that unites believers
- 4) Agape – God's divine love for humankind

Eros type of Love

Eros (Pronounced: *AIR-ohs*) is the Greek word for sensual or romantic love. The term originated from the mythological Greek god of love, sexual desire, physical attraction, and physical love.

Eros type of love seeks its own interest and satisfaction—to possess the object of love. God is very clear in the Bible that eros love is reserved for marriage. Promiscuity of all types was rampant in ancient Greek culture and was one of the obstacles the Apostle Paul had to battle when planting churches in the eastern Mediterranean.

Apostle Paul warned young believers against succumbing to immorality: "So I say to those who aren't married and to widows—it's better to stay unmarried, just as I am. But if they can't control themselves, they should go ahead and marry. It's better to marry than to burn with lust." (1 Corinthians 7:8–9)

But within the boundary of marriage, eros love is to be celebrated and enjoyed as beautiful blessing from God: "Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love." (Proverbs 5:18–19; see also Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:5; Ecclesiastes 9:9)

Even though the term *eros* is not found in the Old Testament, [Song of Solomon](#) vividly portrays the passion of erotic love.

Storge type of Love

Storge (Pronounced: *STOR-jay*) is a term for love in the Bible that in Greek word describes family love. It is the affectionate bond that develops naturally between parents and children, and brothers and sisters.

Many examples of family love are found in Scripture, such as the mutual protection among Noah and his wife, the love of Jacob for his sons, and the strong love the sisters Martha and Mary had for their brother Lazarus.

Philia type of love

Philia (Pronounced: *FILL-ee-uh*) is the type of intimate love in the Bible that most Christians practice toward each other. This Greek term describes the powerful emotional bond seen in deep friendships.

Philia originates from the Greek term *phílos*, a noun meaning "beloved, dear ... a friend; someone dearly loved (prized) in a personal, intimate way; a trusted *confidant* held dear in a close bond of personal affection." Philia expresses experience-based love.

Philia is the most general type of love in Scripture, encompassing love for fellow humans, care, respect, and compassion for people in need. The concept of brotherly love that unites believers is unique to Christianity. Jesus said philia would be an identifier of his followers: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." ([John](#) 13:35, [NIV](#))

Romans 12:10 commands believers to "be devoted" to one another with brotherly affection. Christians are members of God's family. Our lives are knit together by something stronger than physical ties—the bonds of the Spirit. We are related by something more powerful than human blood—the

blood of Jesus Christ. God calls his children to love each other with the deep affection of Philia love.

Meaning of Agape Love

Agape (Pronounced: *Uh-GAH-pay*) is the highest of the four types of love in the Bible. This term defines God's immeasurable, incomparable love for humankind. It is the divine love that comes from God. Agape love is perfect, unconditional, sacrificial, and pure.

**1 Corinthians and chapter 13, describes this kind of love.
Let us look at it in the New International Version (NIV)**

1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.

[11](#) When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

[12](#) For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

[13](#) And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Jesus Christ demonstrated this kind of divine love to his Father and to all humanity in the way he lived and died: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Following his resurrection, Jesus asked the apostle Peter if he loved him (agape). Peter replied three times that he did, but the word he used was phileo or brotherly love (John 21:15–19). Peter had not yet received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Without Holy Spirit, he was incapable of agape love. But after Pentecost, Peter was so full of God's love that he spoke from his heart and 3,000 people were converted.

Love is one of the most powerful emotions humans can experience. For Christian believers, love is the truest test of genuine faith. Through the Bible, we discover how to experience love in its many forms and to share it with others as God intended.