

Agape Love
Romans 12:9-13

At the judgment, love is the ultimate test with which we are going to be faced. In Matthew 25 our Lord was speaking about a time when all nations are going to be gathered together before him for judgment, and He Himself separates the sheep from the goats. What is the determining factor? What is the thing that puts them on one side or another for all eternity? It is love... No matter what I have claimed to believe, no matter what doctrine of faith I have supported, no matter what position I have taken to defend the truth, if I have failed in love, I am not fitted for the presence of God. For it simply means that I have never been near enough to the heart of Jesus to feel His love and compassion.

Not that it does not matter what you believe; it matters a great deal that you should accept the Word of God from beginning to end as basic in your life. But the great test is: How much do you love? Love brings heaven near to others. Love lifts the fallen and comforts the sorrowing. Love challenges corrupt moral standards. Love faces broken homes and leads back to New Testaments standards of life. How much do you love? Alan Redpath

- I. The **agape love** of Jesus is the type of love that God puts in all believers. It is a love that gives of oneself regardless of merit for the better good of the recipient. It is a self-sacrificing love, with the motivation of kindness, compassion, generosity and good will. This is the type of love God expresses toward the world (**1 Jn. 4:9**), and it is the standard we are to live by in our relationships with others. It is his love expressed through us, and it is **a virtue that must be seen** in all who call themselves Christian.

1 John 4:15-21
John 3:16
1 John 3:23

1 Jn. 4:7 *Dear friends let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

- II. The **agape love** of Jesus has two primary qualities: sincerity and discernment. Jesus expects his love to be a sincere, genuine expression of kindness, compassion, generosity and good will toward others. He also expects his love to discriminate between what is good and what is evil, so that what is good receives his love, and what is evil doesn't (**1 Jn. 2:15-17**). We are to love the person but hate his or her sin.

Rom. 12:9

1 Cor. 13:1-3

2 Cor. 13:5

Prov. 6:16-19

Amos 5:21

Grk. anypokritos = unfeigned, undisguised, sincere

Sincere comes from two Latin words: *sine* (without) and *cera* (wax).

"Love hates evil—an intentionally strong word. But love also clings to what is good. The Greek word rendered cling in some of its forms means to glue. So the idea is that true love will bond us to the good. We will stick to it like epoxy." Boice

- III. The **agape love** of Jesus is to be expressed with actions and in truth (**1 Jn. 3:18**). It is to selflessly express his patience and kindness in ways that truly bless others through the bond of truth, protection, trust, hope and perseverance.

Rom. 12:10-13

1 Cor. 13:1-7

2 Timothy 1:7

Gal. 6:22

Gal. 5:16-17

Eph. 5:26

1 Jn. 3:11,16 *This is the message you have heard from the beginning, we should love one another. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

Matthew 24:10-12 *At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love [agape] of most will grow cold.*