

Agape Love in Action

Romans 12:11-21

“When the nations were raging and the peoples imagining a vain thing, he did not move to destroy them. He did not destroy Adam when he sinned, but promised a Savior and began the long course of history so that man could have opportunity upon opportunity to repent and return to God.... He did not destroy us when we were ungodly sinners. He came from heaven to save us. He came into the camp of his enemies and allowed them to do their will against him in order to establish the foundation for our redemption. When we were without strength, when we were enemies, Christ died for us. Note that he did not save us by demonstrating his mighty power in some miracle. He saved us—He saved us by letting us kill him. How astonishing this is!

And when he rose from the dead he did not judge those who behaved so wickedly against him. The Jerusalem to which he held out his arms before he died was still the center of his loving thought. He commanded his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. But he commanded them to begin at Jerusalem. Was this not heaping coals of fire upon the heads of his enemies? And did it not melt the hearts of many? It did of course, It still does. It can through you.” Barnhouse

- I. **Agape love in action** always represents the gospel of grace well before others. It takes seriously our call to bless Christ’s body, by being proactive in expressing the fruit of the Spirit for the wellbeing of those whom God has brought into our lives. To act in any other way is to be blatantly out of step with the Spirit (Gal. 5:25).

Rom. 12:10-13

Gal. 6:10

Phil. 2:3

Gal. 6:9

Matt. 20:28

2 Cor. 1:20

1 Thess. 5:8

φιλαδελφία philadelphía – brotherly love (kindness)

φιλόστοργος philóstorgos – loving affection, prone to love, loving tenderly, chiefly of the reciprocal tenderness of parents and children

Rom. 12:10 *“In respect to the love of our Christian brothers and sisters, we are to be marked by a devotion that is characteristic of a loving, close-knit, and mutually supportive family.” Boice*

- II. ***Agape love in action*** rises above the natural tendency to put up walls of self-protection (pride). It desires to express to the unloving, God's love, grace and mercy through the Spirit's fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. To act otherwise is to not live by the Spirit, nor is it keeping in step with the Spirit.

Rom. 12:14-16

Jn. 15:18-21

Matt. 5:43-48

1 Cor. 1:26-29

Gal. 5:22-26

- III. ***Agape love in action*** deliberately addresses the problem of dealing with those who have sinned against us, by having an attitude of not letting them steal the joy of our salvation. Instead, we are to be peacemakers (Matt. 5:9) by conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel. A response of kindness, mercy and grace is the same response Jesus had toward us when we were his enemies. *"Our attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5).*

Rom. 12:17-21

Phil 1:27-29

Matt. 5:9

Gal. 5:25

Deut. 32:25

Prov. 3:3-4 *Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the table of our heart. Then you will win favor and good name in the sight of the Lord.*