

Agape's Love Language
1 Cor. 13:1-6

"In the first of this chapter there are two contrasting pictures. In the opening three verses we see a man who has a lot of gifts, but no love. In the next four verse we see a man who has a lot of love, but apparently no gifts. In some measure the church at Corinth fitted into the first of these, but it found no place in the second at all, for it was completely without love.

In the second picture there is no reference to any gifts, and yet as we read these wonderful words we feel that impact of this life of love, this Christlikeness of character. While gifts without love are absolutely worthless, yet love, apparently without any gifts, is a quality which will stand the test of time and eternity.

This picture of love is a photograph of the Lord Jesus Christ in His inner character. And in His church, His body, He wants to have many reprints."
Redpath

- I. There are different kinds of love that we should express towards one another as the body of Christ. We should express a **storge' love (natural affection)** toward one another for the purpose of binding us together as a family of believers. We should express a **phileō love (to treat affectionately or kindly, to welcome, befriend)** as a bond of friendship between one another. And most importantly, we should and must express **agapē love (self-sacrificing love)**, so that we may serve one another with the same agape love Christ serves us with.

2 Timothy 3:14

John 16:27

Heb. 2:11

Song of Songs 7:10

John 3:16-18 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

- II. As an act of obedience, God expects us to show agape love toward him and toward one another if we claim to be one of his own. It is a love that not only defines God, but it is to define us also. It is a love that serves without expectation by looking out for the welfare or the better good of others. We are to abide in agape love, we are to let Holy Spirit perfect it in us, we are to let it take away our fear through confidence in his love, and we are to animate it toward one another as an expression of our love for God.

1 Jn. 4:15-21

1 Jn. 4:15-27

John 14:21 *Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."*

John 15:12-13 *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

- III. A loveless person produces nothing, is nothing, and gains nothing of eternal value. On the other hand, believers who are defined by agape love will have confidence on the day of judgment because they are like "Him." Agape love is active, not abstract or passive. It is defined by the attitude behind the heartfelt and sincere act of expressing the attributes of agape love toward God and his precious church.

1 Cor. 13:1-4

2 Peter 3:9

Ephesians 4:2-3 *2Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*