

- ❖ **I John 4th Chapter** – Love is mentioned 27 times (*2+7=9*)
 - ❖ **I Corinthians 13th Chapter** – Charity (Agape) is mentioned 9 times (*which contains the 9 fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22.*)
 - ❖ Luke 1:42 - Blessed is the fruit of thy womb - because the woman carries the child for **nine months**.
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- *Agape Love* is seeing the answer and sharing that with whoever is seeing or experiencing the problem.
- *Agape Love* is never judgmental and is eternally patient with anything that *must be learned*.
- *Agape Love* is totally without demands or requirements.
- *Agape Love* is total truth in that it does not change, no matter what appears to change around it.
- *Agape Love* knows not of time since time does not exist in Heaven.
- *Agape Love* is unconditional forgiveness for any event because agape love transcends the concept of needing forgiveness in that it knows we are simply misguided and therefore our actions are not held against us in the first place.

***Like frightened children running through a dark forest, we act irrationally and do things out of fear and panic. Agape love knows this and seeks only to help us resolve our fears so that we can see clearly once again and return to full communication with our Creator.

Question: "What is agape love?"

Answer: The Greek word *agape* is often translated "*love*" in the New Testament. How is "agape love" different from other types of love? The essence of agape love is self-sacrifice.

Unlike our English word "love," agape is not used in the Bible to refer to romantic or sexual love. Nor does it refer to close friendship or brotherly love, for which the Greek word *philia* is used. Nor does agape mean charity, a term which the King James translators carried over from the Latin. Agape love is unique and is distinguished by its nature and character.

Agape is love which is of and from God, whose very nature is love itself. The Apostle John affirms this in [1 John 4:8](#): "God is love." God does not merely love; He is love itself. Everything God does flows from His love. But it is important to remember that God's love is not a sappy, sentimental love such as we often hear portrayed. God loves because that is His nature and the expression of His being. *He loves the unlovable and the unlovely (us!)*, not because we deserve to be loved, *but because it is His nature to do so*, and He must be true to His nature and character. God's love is displayed most clearly at the Cross, where Christ died for the unworthy creatures who were "dead in trespasses and sins" ([Ephesians 2:1](#)), not because we did anything to deserve it, "but God commends His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" ([Romans 5:8](#)). The object of agape love never does anything to merit His love. We are the undeserving recipients upon whom He lavishes that love. His love was demonstrated when He sent His Son into the world to "seek and save that which was lost" ([Luke 19:10](#)), and to provide eternal life to those He sought and saved. He paid the ultimate sacrifice for those He loves.

In the same way, we are to love others sacrificially. Jesus gave the parable of the Good Samaritan as an example of sacrifice for the sake of others, even for those who may care nothing at all for us, or even hate us, as the Jews did the Samaritans. Sacrificial love is not based on a feeling, but a determined act of the will, a joyful resolve to put the welfare of others above our own. ***But this type of love does not come naturally to humans.*** Because of our fallen nature, we are incapable of producing such a love. If we are to love as God loves, that love—that agape—can only come from its true Source. This is the love which “has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us” when we became His children ([Romans 5:5](#)). Because that love is now in our hearts, we can obey Jesus who said, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. As I have loved you, you should also love one another” ([John 13:34](#)). ***This new commandment involves loving one another as He loved us sacrificially, even to the point of death.*** But again, it is clear that only God can generate within us the kind of self-sacrificing love which is the proof that we are His children. “By this we have known the love of God, because He laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers” ([1 John 3:16](#)). Because of God’s love toward us, we are now able to love one another.

The 3 Types of Love

There are three types of love – ***Eros - Philos - Agape:***

1) Eros love - known as "erotic love". It is based on strong feelings toward another. It usually occurs in the first stages of a man-woman "romantic" relationship. Also known as “erotic love”.

This love is based more on physical traits. Say a person says he has "fallen in love" for a woman, because "***she looked like an angel***" (*sheesh*). Or a woman "***falls in love***" for a guy because he is intelligent, has good breeding, etc.

The weakness with this type of love is obvious. It is based more on "self-benefit", of what can benefit you rather than the other person. This is "I love you because it feels good, and makes ME happy loving you." See? The keyword is the word "ME".

When that person doesn't "feel happy" anymore in loving that person, she/he is led to believe that she/he has "fallen out of love". Actually, there was never "true love" in the first place. The fact is, love by feelings alone cannot be called "true love" simply because they do not know each other that much yet.

Two people feel this strong emotional attraction towards one another, though they barely really know about each other's personalities. A person usually puts her/his best foot forward, showing only her/his good side. In order to be sure if "true love" exists, two people must know and accept each others' good and bad traits.

Furthermore, they must have gone through a lot of time with each other, going through BOTH joys and sorrows, pains and pleasures, and still end up together. A lot of sacrifice towards each other is therefore essential.

It is love that is untested by hardships, and therefore may or may not last in the long-term. It may or may not develop into a higher form of love - philos love. Eros love can only succeed in the long-term if it progresses into a higher form of love. Otherwise, it will not last.

The romantic feeling common in "eros love" is natural, and an important part of a relationship between a man and a woman. Romance also plays a role in strengthening the bonds, especially at the start of a relationship. This is part of God's plan.

What we need to be careful of is assuming a relationship must be "**real love**" just because it is romantic, because all we feel is happiness. As with most anything in life, we must learn to use both our heart and mind to judge if something is real.

Be careful also of being in love with the "**concept of love**" itself, rather than for who the person is. TV. movies, media has "**romanticized**" so much, it is often hard to see reality from fiction.

You must love a person for her/his uniqueness, not because you simply want to feel the joy of "being in love." Such a love is concerned more with the "self" rather than the partner.

Over-relying on pure emotion without the balance of logic is a recipe for failure.

2) Philos love - a love based on friendship between two people – Give and take relationship..

It is true that two lovers that start out by being friends first before becoming partners usually are the relationships that last more, long-term.

Friendship is the foundation of a successful relationship. This is true whether it is marriage, or boyfriend-girlfriend, relationship between family members, relationship with co-workers, employer, etc.

In the case of a man-woman romantic relationship, the advantage is you get to know each other first, before committing to a more serious relationship above friendship.

You start out as friends, then admire each other, then possibly strong emotions can suddenly appear over time and you both realize you miss each other more. It takes time, and is patient (***love is patient, love is kind!***).

This is in contrast to a man-woman romantic relationship which starts out by "**eros love**", meaning you get attracted by physical/mental traits alone. Strong emotions start almost immediately (some would even say "**love at first sight**"), though you do not even know each other that much.

With eros love, you see only each other's strengths/good side, everything is rosy, mushy feeling of happiness, etc. Again, you cannot judge "real love" between two people based on strong emotions alone.

Philos love is a love based on "**give-and-take**", where two people benefit each other in a mutual way. One partner is still concerned with what she/he can take, but at the same time is also concerned with her/his partner's benefit and therefore gives back in return.

Therefore, philos is a higher type of love than eros. Philos love is a mutual, "give-and take" relationship, while eros love is a self-based, form of love that is more concerned with the "self" or self-benefit.

Like eros love, philos love must develop into a higher form of love, the highest love of all - "agape" or unconditional love.

3) Agape - unconditional love

The third and highest type of love is "agape", or unconditional love.

Agape love is above **philos** love and **eros** love. It is a love that is totally selfless, where a person gives out love to another person even if this act does not benefit her/him in any way. Whether the love given is returned or not, the person continues to love (even without any self-benefit).

Unconditional love that is always giving and impossible to take or be a taker. It devotes total commitment to seek your highest best, no matter how anyone may respond. This form of love is totally selfless and does not change whether the love given is returned or not. This is the original and only true form of love.

Say, you help out a person, even though that person hates you and curses you. Or you take insults from your partner without hitting back, all the while forgiving and praying for your partner to amend her/his ways. Or the famed "**unconditional love**" that a mother has for her child (her child will always be the most beautiful child in the world to her, even with a face only a mother could love!).

Or the love we show our parents, taking care of them and helping them in their old age. Just like they took care of us when we were young, it is done with or without benefit in return.

However, the highest type of agape love is not human at all, but divine - God's unconditional love for us, His children.

God's love was shown to us the most when God the Father sent His one and only Son, Jesus Christ to his suffering and death on the cross for our salvation. There is no greater love than this. Jesus had no obligation to die for us, but He chose to. ***It is His gift, His ultimate gift.***

He chose to die for us because He knew what would happen to us, to all mankind if He left us on our own. Without Jesus' death on the cross, mankind is doomed to eternal damnation, no soul will be able to enter eternal life in Heaven.

The sins of mankind (***since the first sin at Eden by Adam and Eve***) have become so many and so great that no man can "redeem himself" by his own means alone. Even if each person "suffered and died on the cross", it will not be enough to "repay sins' debts" to God. Only the Begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ Himself, dying on that cross for us would "repay our debts of sin".

First ***Corinthians 13:4-8*** provides a perfect description for agape : "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

In essence, eros love is "physical", philos love is "mental", and agape love is "spiritual". Thus, it is made up of the three fundamental elements of man: physical, mental and spiritual.

The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God

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Fortunately, our Creator views any problem or tragic moment as an opportunity to reach into our hearts and provide reason for change. No matter what appears to have occurred, He is not angry or upset at whom we think is at fault because He knows nothing has been lost.

Since material things have no eternal value, they do not matter at all to Him. In addition, any person you believe has died, is still safe in Spirit form. Since God exists spiritually, He does not sense the loss of this being and therefore has no reason to be upset at anyone. His only thought is to help us see that life can be happier...life can be fuller...it is better to be kind...It is better to be loving, and then our time down here will become a focus on preparing ourselves to return to our Creator.

Regardless of what happens here, He has not and never will lose one of us, because we are created external spirits, just like Him. Jesus proved when He rose again that you can kill the body, but the spirit remains untouched and unaffected by anything that happens while here is this physical world.

Our confusion of the purpose of love relationships is often then applied to how we think God relates to us. We imagine that God only loves us when we please him, or that God will only walk with us if we acknowledge Him or that God will only extend His hand and carry us back to Him in Heaven if we agree with what we think He demands from us. In doing this, we have created a “*philos love*” relationship with God *which is totally at odds with His “**apape love**.”* Agape love only gives, never takes, and is void of any necessary condition. Agape love asks for nothing and gives everything...simply because we are the children of Agape Love.