

NO ORDINARY LOVE

The theme of the 09 SEYC Teen Camp is “**No Ordinary Love.**” This was the point Paul was making to Philemon about God’s love in our lesson text.

The Greeks had four words to describe four different aspects of love.

- Eros **Flesh** or physical type of love (sexual / hormones or athletically / endorphin?)
- Storge **Family** and kin folk
- Philos **Friendship** as in bonding (military, sports, club)
- Agape **Faith in** God, religion and the covenants (Matt.22:36-40) - Agape is the word used by Paul in our lesson text.

Paul mentioned that he had heard a great report about the love of God working in Philemon: “Because I hear (akouo / p.a.ptc.nsm) of your love (ten agape) and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all saints.” (Philemon 5)

It is interesting that Paul changed the Greek preposition translated (toward) in English. He did this to categorize two different directions of the love (agape) love of God in verse 5 (note toward underlined).

The first (toward) is the preposition (pros+accusative) referring to agape love expressed “face to face” with the Lord Jesus (1 John 4:9-10).

The second (toward) is the preposition (eis+acc.) referring to agape love being directed toward all the saints (John 13:34-35).

This lesson will study four aspects of the agape love of God that makes it No Ordinary Love.

1. The agape love of this lesson is an essence of God offered to mankind.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, **for God is love.**” (1 John 4:7-8)

Love of God is 1 of 10 essences of God that He has revealed to the world.

Omniscience (1 John 3:20)	Sovereignty (Acts 17:24-26)
Omnipresence (Jer.23:24)	Righteousness (Acts 7:52)
Omnipotence (Rom.4:17)	Eternal Life (1 Tim.1:17)
Immutable (Heb.13:8)	Holiness (John 17:11)
Veracity (Heb.6:18)	LOVE (1 John 4:16)

“And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. **God is love**, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” (1 John 4:16)

2. The love of God is the motivation behind the pardoning of the human race from AOS by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“For **God so loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16)

Note that whenever a member of the human race believes in the gospel of Jesus Christ, he receives the Love of God as well as other essences of God – Eternal life, Righteousness, and Holiness (1 Pet.1:15-16)

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
(Rom.5:8; Titus 3:4-5; 1 Tim.1:15)

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”
(1 John 3:16; Gal.2:20; John 10:17; 15:9; 2 Cor.5:14-21)

3. The love of God is poured out into the heart of every church age believer at the moment of salvation by the grace of God.

It is 1 of 50 things that you receive at the moment of salvation that you can never lose in time or in eternity!

“And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Rom.5:5)

“And I have made Thy name known to them, and will make it known; that the love wherewith Thou didst love Me be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:26)

“See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.” (1 John 3:1)

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. **For this is the love of God** that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.”
(1 John 5:2-3)

Paul says that nothing can separate the believer from the love of God in Christ (Rom.8:35-39).

“We love, because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19; 3:14)

4. Agape love is the single greatest virtue of the Christian Way of Life (CWL).

“But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but **the greatest of these is love.**” (1 Cor.13:13; 1 Thess.1:3)

“And beyond all these things **put on** love, which is the perfect bond of unity” (Col.3:14) NOTE: The subject of putting on New Man Divine Viewpoint Thinking (NMDV) began in Col.3:10.

The two spiritual sources for putting on the virtue of the love of God in the CWL are the **faith cycle** and the **filling of The Holy Spirit**.

- **Faith cycle:**

- Faith working through love.” (Gal.5:6; Eph.6:23);
- The breastplate of faith and love (1 Thess.5:8);
- Spiritual maturity in God’s love by the word of God (Phil.1:9-10; 1 Thess.3:12; 2 Tim.1:7; Eph.3:17-19; 4:15; 1 John 2:5).

- **Filling of Holy Spirit:**

- And he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.” (Col.1:8; ; Rom.15:30; Gal.5:22-23)

Pursuit of God’s love is greater than spiritual gifts (1 Cor.14:1; 1 Tim.6:11; Jude 21) “Let all things be done in love.” (1 Cor.16:14)

God’s love among believers is a great witness to the world: “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34; 1 John 3:11; 4:12, 21; 1 Pet.1:22; 2 Cor.2:4).