

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Conditional loves: eros/romance & philos/friendship;

Unconditional loves: storge/family love & agape/committed love.

All bible words had secular uses before they were used to write the bible. The secular use gives us the root meanings of these words to help us understand what the writers are saying. Philos/phileo – agape/agapao are often used interchangeably but retain their individual meanings.

Philos - compatibility love, affection love, admiration, enjoyment, based on reciprocation

Agape – devoted, committed, determined mind-set, fully invested, giving all to/for

- Includes all of the desire & pleasure of the others – LXX almost every use of ahab

Gen 29:18 – Jacob loved Rachel – ahab → agapao. We know that what Jacob thought, felt & desired with Rachel is better described by eros (not in bible) but covered by agapao.

Luke 11:43 "Woe to you Pharisees! For you love (agapao) the front seats in the synagogues, and the respectful greetings in the marketplaces

Luke 20:46 "Beware of the scribes, who love (agapao) to walk around in long robes, love respectful greetings in the marketplaces, & chief seats in the synagogues, and places of honor

Jn 3:16,19 – God loved the world; Vs 19 Men loved darkness

Agape

- a. The word philos generally indicates a pleasurable, compatible, reciprocal relationship
- b. Agape generally indicates to be devoted or committed to something, someone.
- c. Agape indicates a committed, devoted giving of self to someone, some situation
- d. Pharisees desired and were determined to hold these places of prominence, being willing to do whatever was necessary to connive the respect of the common man.
- e. Mt 22:37 Love (agapao) the Lord with all heart, soul, mind, strength – totally committed to give all we have to the Lord.
- f. Agape for the Lord is the committed mind-set of the mature believer that God blesses.

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

1 Cor 2:9 but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him." (Jms 2:5; 1Jn 4:21)

Jn 21:15-17

Vs.15 Peter do you **agapao** me? Devoted, committed to me? Lord, you know I **phileo** you – friend

Vs.16 Peter do you **agapao** me? Lord, you know I **phileo** you, want to be your reciprocal friend

Vs.17 Peter do you really **phileo** me? Peter was grieved, Lord you know that I **phileo** you

- a. Jesus was looking for a commitment from Peter not a personal friendship
- b. Appears that Peter having failed so dramatically, was afraid to say he was committed
- c. Perhaps it was Peter's idea of love for Jesus (philos) that set him up to fail – he was determined to be a loyal friend, to do what loyal friends do for one another.
- d. Peter was trying to love the Lord as a man being loyal to his man friend, not yet understanding that Jesus was God in the flesh.
- e. Agape for Jesus would have been willing to listen & obey the Lord rather than contradict Him about the denials and God's will for Peter that night – wasn't His will for him to die.

Agape – Concepts

1. Christian agape love is the overflow of the believer's soul being experientially filled by God The Holy Spirit

- Jn 7:37-39 spiritual thirst from innermost being (koilos – God shaped hole) when filled by God The Holy Spirit overflows with rivers of living water – overflows in ministry to those around you.
- Rom 5:5 at salvation God The Holy Spirit completely pours out (perfect tense) love of God into bel's heart
- Rom 5:3-4 pressure of adversity develops the inner man, character, confidence in God's love
- Jam 1:2-4 growth through adversity develops endurance enabling us to continue to maturity
- 1Jn 4:18 mature love rejects fear in relation to God, no reason to be afraid of your Father.

2. Baby believers are capable of agape love, but it is inconsistent & easily overwhelmed by our self-interest and temptation to react sinfully.

- Jam 4:1-4 hedonism – commitment to pleasure and sensual self-indulgence; me centered
- Gal 5:16-17 the Old Sin Nature corrupts desire, by faith attaching desire to pleasure & sinfulness
- 1Pt 2:1-2 laying aside malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy & strife, desire pure milk of the word

3. As believer matures, deletes beliefs causing fear, accepts truth about God's love, able to open heart to Lord, allowing His love to heal wounds & build mind-set of love to others .

- Jn 13:34 love one another as I have loved you – God's love fills us and overflows to others
- Gal 5:13 spiritual freedom enabling us to let go of our guilt, shame and fear, but don't use freedom to indulge sin nature, instead use it to serve one another in love.

4. Agape is a mind-set that is committed to the edification of others regardless of conduct of the object, or any kind of adverse circumstances.

- 1Cor 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- Col 3:12-14 we who are chosen & beloved: put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness & love which is the bond of completeness.

- Love is the bond (chain, a tie) that pulls all of these virtues together into an attitude.
- **Agape** (unconditional commitment to edify) keeps Christian virtues ready for use based on the need of the person in the moment under the leadership of God The holy Spirit.