

# Just a Thought ...

**What is love?** Mankind has made it confusing; in fact, man does not know what love is. I have become convinced that when I say I love someone, I don't know what I am talking about. Was it love when I jumped into the pool and saved my brother from drowning? Was it love when I walked forward in the church and said "I do" to my future wife? Was it love when I dislodged the toy from my choking son's throat? Did I prove my love in those cases? Maybe not. It could have been "fear" that made me do those things. My brother and son were dying. People were watching me in the church follow through on something - a wedding. I was afraid in all cases.

**Did I show my love** when I hit my wife in the face in a fit of anger? How about when I pushed my son in frustration? Can I love a brother who cheated & lied to me, and has not spoken to me for 15 years? How can something like "love" sometimes resemble "fear" and "anger"?

**In the Greek language,** notice these four words for "love":

**"Eros"** = Romantic love - mostly physical & sexual

**"Storge"** = Family love - cherishing & protecting children & spouse

**"Phileo"** = Brotherly love - Helping others - befriending

**"Agape"** = God's love - Supernatural - nothing expected in return

**Since I** am a human (a sinner), my love will have good days and bad days. My romantic love may be terrible & selfish at times; my family love can be dynamic and yet abusive at times; my brotherly love can vary depending on how I feel about people; my agape life never changes as long as I let God live His love through me; if I fail with agape love, I tell God about it, and ask Him to pump HIS love through me.

# Help from the Bible ...

1. John 3:16 - "For God so \_\_\_\_\_ the world that He \_\_\_\_\_ His only Son, that whosoever \_\_\_\_\_ in Him will not perish but have \_\_\_\_\_ life."
2. Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates His own \_\_\_\_\_ toward us, in that while we were still \_\_\_\_\_, Christ died for \_\_\_\_\_."
3. Psalm 86:15 - "But You, O Lord, are a God full of \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, longsuffering, and abundant in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."
4. Psalm 136:26 - "Oh give thanks to the God of heaven; for His love and \_\_\_\_\_ endures forever."
5. Ephesians 2:4-5 - "But God, who is rich in \_\_\_\_\_, because of His great \_\_\_\_\_ WITH WHICH HE \_\_\_\_\_ US, even when we were \_\_\_\_\_ in sin, made us \_\_\_\_\_ together with Christ."
6. Romans 8:35,38 - "Who can \_\_\_\_\_ us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ? Shall tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword? ... For I am persuaded that none of these - death, life, angels, demons, the future, the present ... shall be able to \_\_\_\_\_ us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God."
7. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - "Love suffers long and is \_\_\_\_\_; love does not \_\_\_\_\_; love does not \_\_\_\_\_ itself; love is not \_\_\_\_\_ up; love does not behave \_\_\_\_\_; love does not seek its \_\_\_\_\_; love is not \_\_\_\_\_; love thinks no \_\_\_\_\_; love does not rejoice in \_\_\_\_\_; BUT! BUT! BUT! Love rejoices in the \_\_\_\_\_; love \_\_\_\_\_ all things (*never gives up*); love \_\_\_\_\_ all things (*never loses faith*); love \_\_\_\_\_ all things (*is always hopeful*); love \_\_\_\_\_ all things. Love never \_\_\_\_\_."
8. 1 John 4:18 - "There is no \_\_\_\_\_ in love; but \_\_\_\_\_ love casts out \_\_\_\_\_."