

# THE BIBLE WORD SERIES

***A Brief Study of those Important Words found in the Bible that we need to understand, not just skip over.***

## LOVE

*The three main Greek words for "love" are: (We will study "phileo" & "Agapao" in this lesson.)*

- |             |   |  |                 |
|-------------|---|--|-----------------|
| 1) "Eros"   | = | Sexual or passionate love                    | (Romantic Love) |
| 2) "Phileo" | = | Strong affection for a friend                | (Human Love)    |
| 3) "Agape"  | = | A righteous love that can only come from God | (Divine Love)   |

***Since the study of "love" in the entire Bible is too huge a project, we will concentrate only on "love" in the Apostle John's writings.*** (John's Gospel, 1, 2, 3 John); we will skip Revelation

1. In your opinion, what is your definition of "love"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In your opinion, what is the world's definition of "love"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In your opinion, what is a Christian's definition of "love"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In your opinion, what is God's definition of "love"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### "Phileo" Love

- This is **not** a romantic or sexual expression of love.
  - This love could be experienced between lovers short of sensuality.
  - This could include a family member but there is another Greek word for that.
  - This is a strong affection (heterosexual) between friends expressed by:
    - a. Enjoying being with the person
    - b. Appreciating the person and expressing that to them
    - c. Genuinely liking & caring for the person
    - d. Being willing to help, sacrifice for, keep track of, comfort & support.
    - e. This could be many people but it is probably your **BEST FRIEND**.
    - f. This kind of love would include your "enemy". (Until God intervenes in your lives.)
5. Jesus had good friends; name them.
- |                  |       |                        |
|------------------|-------|------------------------|
| a. John 11:3     | _____ | (He was sick.)         |
| b. John 11:36    | _____ | (He died.)             |
| c. John 20:2     | _____ | (After crucifixion)    |
| d. John 21:15,17 | _____ | (He was being tested.) |

These encounters (Jesus & friends) were pretty intense (Close friend stuff).

- One friend was sick - the family called for Him - the man died.
- Friends got together to discuss where Jesus' body had been taken.
- One friend's spiritual life & ministry was being questioned & tested.

6. Have you had close friends like this? Yes No
7. Have you ever joined with a good friend to do good things? Yes No
8. Have you ever joined with a good friend to do very bad things? Yes No

**Wow! We can make wrong decisions alone or with friends. If we just hang around our regular school & neighborhood friends growing up, that's normal & good. If that group of friends turns to bad choices, it is hard to stand against the group, isn't it?**

9. We need God's help everyday as we choose & hang with friends. Yes No  
*John 15:19 If you are of the world, then the world loves its own.*
10. Is it possible that God the Father & God the Son are friends? Yes No  
*John 5:20 For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself does.*
11. Could the word "phileo" describe a man loving himself? Yes No  
*John 15:25 He who loves his life will lose it ...*
12. The word "phileo" is used for "love" in this verse. Is it possible that God the Father, God the Son, and I could be friends? Yes No  
*John 16:27 For the Father Himself loves ("phileo") you because you have loved ("phileo") Me....*

**"Phileo" love is a natural human being love between all of mankind. It can be expressed by unbelievers or believers; it takes no supernatural power to do this.**

**"Phileo" love is inconsistent; it can help, hurt, stand with or turn from someone. It is the kind of love that has to function within a sinful nature. What can we expect? It operates basically with human effort; we can be self-centered or be a nice guy.**

### "Agape" Love

- All the verses used in this section will use the word "agape" for love.
- Remember. This is a **righteous love** that can only come from God.
- This is a supernatural love that can only be lived in a **believer's life**.
- This is the "love" that is God's character; all He does & is = "agape love".

It is logical to study the "Agape Love of God" through the eyes of the Apostle John.

- The name "John" means "**beloved of God**" or "absolutely loved by God Almighty".
- Jesus loved John, not with favoritism, but with true intimacy.  
*John 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus one of His disciples, the one whom Jesus loved.*  
*John 19:26 When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He assigned John to take care of His mother.*  
*John 21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"*  
*John 21:20 Then Peter turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following ...*

John rarely used his name when mentioning himself in the text.

13. What is your definition of "agape love" so far? \_\_\_\_\_
-

14. With what do we express "agape love"?

Deuteronomy 6:5 *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*  
Mark 12:30-31 *And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second - you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no greater commandment than these.*  
Luke 10:27 *The Pharisee lawyer answered, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."*

- a. Love the Lord with all your: H \_\_\_\_\_  
S \_\_\_\_\_  
M \_\_\_\_\_  
St \_\_\_\_\_



*This is every part of our being loving God.*

***With every part of us, every ounce of us, every desire, every thought, every goal, every action, every hope, every intent, all we are - WE LOVE GOD.***

15. People use all of their being to hate God too. Match the columns.

- |                |       |   |
|----------------|-------|---|
| a. 1 John 4:8  | _____ | I want the praise of men more.                        |
| b. 1 John 4:20 | _____ | I would rather love the world's pleasures.            |
| c. 1 John 2:15 | _____ | I do not really want to know God.                     |
| d. 1 John 3:17 | _____ | I do not choose to obey the Bible's old ways.         |
| e. John 3:19   | _____ | I choose my way; you call it darkness if you want to. |
| f. John 5:42   | _____ | Why should I love you; what have you done for me?     |
| g. John 12:43  | _____ | Why help others; I work hard; you do the same.        |
| h. John 14:24  | _____ | I prefer honor from men; I don't need God's.          |

***Here is the shocking thing. The same word "agape" is used for these people. They reject God with the same energy that I use to love you & love God. They prefer to reject "agape" love (God's special love). They prefer the opposite. HOW SAD!***

***Consider these thoughts from those who reject God:***

- I hate & reject God with all my heart.***
- I hate & reject God with all my soul.***
- I hate & reject God with all my mind.***
- I hate & reject God with all your strength.***
- I will love myself & not my neighbor.***



***This is not AGAPE LOVE.***

**HOW DO WE KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS "AGAPE" LOVE?**

16. Jesus & the Father showed us how. Match the columns. (Exercise #1)

- |               |       |  |
|---------------|-------|--|
| a. John 3:16  | _____ | God's Son was GIVEN for our sins                 |
| b. John 10:17 | _____ | Jesus obeyed the Father to prove His love.       |
| c. John 11:5  | _____ | Jesus laid down His life as a substitute for me. |
| d. John 14:31 | _____ | Jesus loved His friends with Agape love.         |

17. Jesus & the Father showed us how. Match the columns. (Exercise #2)

- e. John 17:24     \_\_\_ Jesus really wants us to be with Him.
- f. John 21:16    \_\_\_ Jesus was sent to cover our sins with forgiveness.
- g. 1 John 3:16    \_\_\_ Jesus wanted agape love from Peter.
- h. 1 John 4:10    \_\_\_ Jesus laid down His life for me.
- i. 1 John 4:19     \_\_\_ Jesus loved me before I love Him. Thank you, Lord.

18. What is true about this "Agape Love"?

- 1 John 2:10     *He who loves his brother lives in the light.*
- 1 John 3:18     *My congregation, let us not love in word or in tongue, but, in deed and in truth.*
- 2 John 1:3       *Grace, mercy and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth & love.*
- 3 John 1:1       *From John (the Elder), to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.*

- a. "Agape" loving is not in the dark; it is in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. "Agape" loving is not false or fake; it is the \_\_\_\_\_.

19. How do we show God that we love Him? Match the columns.

Love one another	a	John 14:28
Obey God's Instructions (Word).	b	John 15:9
Rejoice in the plan God has for you.	c	John 15:10
Enjoy loving Jesus each day.	d	John 13:34-35; 15:12,17    2 John 1:1,5 1 John 3:11,23; 4:7,11,21
Do what Jesus did.	e	John 14:15,21,23    1 John 2:5; 5:2-3    2 John 1:6

- It appears that the attitude of my heart proves whether I love God.***
- It appears the intimacy of my soul with God's presence proves my love or not.***
- It appears the purity of mind demonstrates to God & all whether I love Him.***
- It appears that how I use my strength & talents proves my love for God.***
- It appears that how I treat my neighbors reveals my sincere love for God.***

20. What kind of shape is your "agape" love in? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

21. On God's report card for you, what grades what you get?

- A B C D F     My love for God
- A B C D F     Surrounded by the mercy of God.
- A B C D F     My faithfulness in serving God
- A B C D F     I am forgiven over & over & over
- A B C D F     My obedience to the Bible (God's Word)
- A B C D F     New strength & mercies every day
- A B C D F     I am willing to accept God's plan for me right now
- A B C D F     I know I have failed but I am not sorry for who I am.