

Loved Defined Love Demonstrated

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1 John 2:5 *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.* **1 John 4:8** *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.* **1 John 4:10** *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

I mentioned a few weeks ago that all of us need loved or to know we are loved by three major forms of affirmation.

1. **Verbal affirmation** – Tell me and tell me how much
2. **Affectionate affirmation** – Let me feel it; spend time with me; talk with me; listen
3. **Demonstrated affirmation** – Show me selflessly; protect me; invest in me; help me; share with me; ; consider my best interest above your own; encourage me; care enough to hold me accountable

I often perceive Webster's definition are slighted with theological influence. However, I do not think that with the definition of “love” the Webster's dictionary does it justice. Only the Spirit of Scripture or the Word of God can truly define love for us. Webster defines it as an attraction for another; a warm concern; or a feeling. Although this are somewhat accurate attributes of love they do not give us the essence of its powerful affluence of our lives. Without a true definition of love our entire world views of relation to one another, God, family, everything are eschewed. What are we, what are our relationships, what is a society with humanistic defined love instead of love defined by transcendent truth? It is a perverted, selfish society. It is society overwhelmed with no hope where mothers murder their children, fathers kill their entire families, people take their own lives. It is where marriages that last are a thing of the past. It is where children grow up fatherless. It is where there are more homeless people living in the street looking for their next drink or fix than there are attending most churches on Sunday morning.

Among most of the church many perceive they are loving people and walking in righteous love when their definition of love is tainted with cultural humanism or selfish religiosity. Without a true Biblical definition of love as defined by Christ we are ineffective to making a difference. If the love of Christ changed history for ever, it changed the entire earth and cultures to this very day. It changed time and mankind. How much more would that same love through you and I continue to increase in its effectiveness in the earth today?

I watched a documentary the other day on the “Mercy Ship”. This ship has all kinds of Christian surgeons who live on the ship with their families and travel to countries all over the world such as West Africa and conduct surgeries such as removing 20 lb tumors in children's mouths that are choking them to death, cleft lips that have caused them to be outcast from their villages. With each amazing act of love they are impressing generations to come with the love of Christ.

Throughout Scripture we find many attributes of love. Today I want to show you ten of which encompass the love of God and demonstrate portions of His nature towards us and of which we are to demonstrate to others.

1. **Philarguria** (*fil-ar-goo-ree-ah*) – love of money
2. **Thelo** (*thel-o*)– impulse or consideration; desire
3. **Philandros** (*fil-an-dros*) – affection as to a spouse
4. **Philanthropia** (*fil-an-thro-pee-ah*) or Philagathos (*fil-ag-ath-os*) – Fondness of mankind; humanitarian; kindness; to promote virtue; benevolence
5. **Philoteknos** (*fil-ot-ek-nos*) – Parental love; maternal; love for children
6. **Philidephia** (*fil-ad-el-fee-ah*) – Brotherly love; love of the brethren; fraternal love
7. **Phileo** (*fil-eh-o*) – Friendship; sentiment; affection for; attachment to; passionate or emotional love
8. **Nous** – intellectual love; understanding

9. **Agapao** (*ag-ap-ah-o*) – in a social moral sense

10. **Agape** (*ag-ah-pay*)– perfected love; completely selfless love; undeserved; unearned; unmerited; John 3:16

Though we were sinners He loved us and gave His only begotten Son that we may be reconciled to us. Even though the division of our relationship with Him was our fault. He first chose to reconcile at His cost. He did so if we gave back or not. God loves you regardless of if you change or not; if you obey His Word or not; if you live for Him or not. His love was not conditional upon your response to His love. Could we say we love as such? Can you love regardless of people negative or lack of response to your love? Can we love them weather they conform to our church cultural expectation or not? Can we love them even if they never change or make progress in their transformation? We will have such and we must learn to love them regardless. We no less continue in our efforts to help them grow in righteousness, the Word of God and their relationship with Christ. But regardless of our growth expectation we must continue to love them as does Father. Even those who may never accept Christ, Father still loves them and His heart is continually broken for them. It is this attribute of His love that breeds hope that they might – come to know the breadth and depth of His love for them.

Matthew 5:40-48 *40And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. 41And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. 42Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. 43Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? 48Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

Judgment begins at home in the Body of Christ. If we cannot love, the world will not know real love. Unfortunately, in the church corporate, everyone that comes up and hugs your neck does not necessarily “love” you. As to say, they do not “agape” you. Often, because most in the church do not walk into this kind of love because they do not understand this kind of love or that it is the love expected of Father. It is like going to a car lot and asking the salesman to sell you a Lexus and he shows you a Yugo. You do not know the difference you drive off in a Yugo thinking your driving a Lexus. All the while your missing the benefits of a Lexus because you do not know the difference and may even refuse to accept truth when someone tells you that what you are driving is not what you expected to get. Someone lied to you and sold you something short of Lexus love, real love, God's love, agape love.

1 John 4:18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

The love of God in us is progressive. It is something we choose to grow in and choose to operate in. When the all other attributes of love reach their limits it is the perfected love of God within us that has to take over and complete Christlikeness in us. If I ask to borrow your new car and out of brotherly love you agree. Then shortly after I bring the keys back to you and you ask, “Where is my car?” And I tell you, well they towed it to the junk yard. It looks like a squashed tin can.” Brotherly love probably reached it's limit and I had better pray you understand and possess some hope of agape love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8 *1If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames,^[b] but have not love, I gain nothing. 4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8Love never fails.*

This is the love Father desires of us. God's kind of love. God's love is not some of these attributes, some of the time but all of these working through us all the time. You say, "No way! Who can do that?" I know of one who did. His name was Jesus Christ and He said that you could as well. You say, "But how can I do that?" When there is nothing in it for you. When you get self out of the way and seek God's desire for another above whatever is challenging God's love in your own heart. Love is the vehicle that all of your faith rides on. Love was defined by Christ's life He lived and hung on a cross. Without this definition and demonstration of love there is no love and no hope of love. There is no foundation for right relationship and selflessness.

John 15:13 *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

John 10:15-18 *15As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. 17Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*