

Main Text: John 3:16-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

God is Love, we use our emotions to love, BUT GOD IS LOVE

John 3:16-18 (MSG) From The Message Bible

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. ¹⁷ God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. ¹⁸ Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

God is Love, we use our emotions to love, BUT GOD IS LOVE

The word, love, is too often used for the word, like, for things which are merely pleasing, but evoke no great warmth of feeling or desire.

The word, love, is often used for the word, **enjoy**. This habitual use of the word, love, to express other feelings minimizes the real potential of love in its true sense.

Definitions of Greek Words for Love

Agapeo: Unconditional love; the love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation

Phileo: Love between friends

Eros: The sense of being in love; romantic love

Storge: Love of family; Parent/child, siblings, cousins, etc. In a very close family, agape is felt as well.

There is a difference between 'love' and 'in love' but the word 'love' still has a type of weight to it. I love my parents, I love my best friends, and I love my dog, but I don't love a boy I started dating a month ago.

Even though you may not be saying 'I'm in love with you,' saying 'I love you' to a significant other means something completely different than saying it to your roommate because there are no romantic feelings that come along with your best girlfriend.

How is it that years ago 'I love you was carefully thought out?

That term was only said when it meant true love and it was a big deal then.

We were taught as children not to say 'hate' because it is such a strong word, but we were never taught not to overuse such a strong word like 'love' into a place where it has lost all of its meaning.

I. SO, WHAT IS LOVE IN THROUGH THE EYES OF GOD

1 Corinthians 13:1-8 (NKJV)

¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. ⁴ **Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;** ⁵ **does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;** ⁶ **does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;** ⁷ **bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.** ⁸ **Love never fails.** But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away.

When we say we love God what do we really means?

- **Is it love like you have for your favorite Ice cream?**
- **Is it the same love we have for our favorite TV program?**
- **Is it the same love that we have for our job?**

II. LET'S LOOK AT WHAT THE BIBLE SAY LOVE IS NOT

- **Love does not envy;** (resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities)
- **Love does not parade itself,**
- **Love is not puffed up;**
- **Love does not behave rudely,** (an offensive or bad-mannered way)
- **Love does not seek its own,**
- **Love is not provoked,** (typically a strong or unwelcome reaction)

GOD IS LOVE, WE USE OUR EMOTIONS TO LOVE, BUT GOD IS LOVE

III. WHAT LOVE IS

- Love thinks no evil;
- Love does not rejoice in iniquity,
- Love suffers long *and* is kind
- Love rejoices in the truth;
- Love bears all things,
- Love believes all things,
- Love hopes all things,
- Love endures all things.
- Love never fails.

IV. JESUS ASKED PETER ABOUT HIS LOVE

John 21:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love (**agapaō**) me more than these " He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (**phileō**) You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love (**agapaō**) Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (**phileō**) You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love (**phileō**) Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love (**phileō**) Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (**phileō**) You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

PETER BECAME UPSET

It is possible that by His repeated question Jesus is subtly reminding Peter of his three denials. There's no doubt those denials and how he felt when Jesus turned to look at him at that moment were seared deeply into Peter's mind ([Luke 22:54-62](#)). It wasn't lost on Peter that Jesus repeated His question to him three times, just as Peter previously denied Him three times.

Luke 22:54-62 (NKJV)

⁵⁴ Having arrested Him, they led *Him* and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶ And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "**This man was also with Him.**" ⁵⁷ **But he denied Him**, saying, "**Woman, I do not know Him.**" ⁵⁸ And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." **But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"** ⁵⁹ Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently

affirmed, saying, "Surely this *fellow* also was with Him, for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ **But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!"** Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." ⁶² So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

V. HAVE YOU EVER DENIED HIM?

- Not letting people know that you are a child of God
- Not telling people how good God is
- Not inviting family and friends to church
- Not witnessing to them
- Not walking away from people that you know you should not hang with?
- Being places you know you should not be?
- Doing things, you should not do?

There is also an interesting contrast when you look at the Greek words for “love” used in [John 21:15–17](#). When Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?” in [John 21:15–16](#), He used the Greek word *agape*, which refers to unconditional love.

Both times, Peter responded with “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you,” using the Greek word *phileo*, which refers more to a brotherly/friendship type of love.

It seems that Jesus is trying to get Peter to understand that he must love Jesus unconditionally in order to be the leader God is calling him to be.

The third time Jesus asks, “Do you love me?” in [John 21:17](#), He uses the word *phileo*, and Peter again responds with “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you,” again using *phileo*.

The point in the different Greek words for “love” seems to be that Jesus was stretching Peter to move him from *phileo* love to *agape* love.

We all need to move from *phileo* love to *agape* love

HOW GOD LOVES US

[Ro 5:8](#) — But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him.

[Eph 2:4](#) — Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love,

[2Th 2:16](#) — May Jesus himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence,

[1Jn 3:1](#) — What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he's up to.

[1Jn 4:9-10](#) — This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

IN CONCLUSION

John 3:16-18 (MSG) From The Message Bible

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.

¹⁷ God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.

¹⁸ Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

LET US TRULY LOVE GOD UNCONDITIONALLY