

Women of the Word

IMAGE BEARERS: Made for Relationship, Worship, Service, Holiness

LOVE and FORGIVENESS: Doing life for the other's good; Paying off the other's debt

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I Review: As believers...

- ** God has given us *HIMSELF* in Christ to REFLECT His Character in shared attributes.
- ** We know, think, speak and do TRUTH because the Lord Jesus is the TRUTH
- ** We count GOD as supreme value in the universe and respect and value others as those who God values as people of worth.
- ** We belong to the LORD, are eternally safe and secure, giving the same to others.
- ** We count GOD as the 'supreme ONE whose person, Word and works' matters most so that we esteem every individual as significant.
- ** We live as a 'family of grace' toward the people of God and before those who are lost because God has showered upon us the riches of His grace, the opposite of what we deserve.
- ** We LOVE others and practice serving for the other's good because God first loved us.
- ** We are willing and able to forgive by saying 'I will pay' because God paid the ultimate price for sin: the death of His beloved Son.

II LOVE: the true point of contact between God and man – God initiates and saves.

Scripture explains love in the only way it can or ought to be understood by 1 John 4:8, 16

The concept of 'love' is, defined, described and modeled in Scripture. It is important therefore, to clarify what words Scripture means when God's Spirit calls us to 'love' as He intends us to love. When we do this, we see how grand God's love is compared to man's love and the way the culture in which we live, views true love.

1. LOVE defined....

Greek word characteristic of the Christian faith – love can be known only from the _____ it prompt.

a. Agapao (noun=agape) – God's love is the deep and constant love and interest that our Holy God has _____ towards unworthy objects, producing and fostering a reverential 'love' in them toward Him and a practical love towards those who are partakers of His love. Christian love has God for its primary object, expressed in implicit _____ to His Word.

b. Phileo – distinguished from agapao in that it represents ' _____ or 'family love'. Never used as a command to love God.

c. Eros – sexual love – culture confuses lust with love

2. LOVE explained...1 Jn. 4:7-12; 16-

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, **that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.** ¹⁰ **In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one



another. ¹²No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

... ¹⁶We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. ¹⁹We love, because He first loved us. ²⁰If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

3. LOVE defined in Scripture...

By the cross: John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that **He gave** His only begotten Son... and Romans 8:31-33

31What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, freely give us all things?

33Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

4. LOVE'S behavior described in Scripture...1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13

	POSITIVE statements (what LOVE is)	NEGATIVE statements (what LOVE isn't)
4	love is patient, is kind	is not jealous (envy), does not brag
5		is not arrogant
5		does not act unbecomingly, does not seek its own,
5		is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered
6	love rejoices with the truth	does not rejoice in unrighteousness
7	love bears, believes, hopes, endures all things	
8	love never fails	
13	But faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.	

5. JESUS' model of Love...John 13:31-34

31 Therefore when he (Judas) had gone out, Jesus said: 'Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in Him. **32** If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself and will glorify Him immediately. **33** Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, Where I am going, you cannot come. **34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this will all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.'

6. JESUS' discussion with Peter...John 21:15-23

- 15 'Simon, son of John, Do you love Me more than *these*?' 'You know I love you.'
'Tend (nurture) my lambs'
- 16 'Simon, son of John, Do you love Me?' 'Yes, Lord, You know that I love you.'
'Shepherd (nurture) My sheep.'
- 17 'Simon, son of John, Do you love Me? (Peter, grieved: 'Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You') 'Tend (nurture) my sheep'