

## Language of the Apostles

### Lesson 2 – *agape* (ἀγάπη)

#### Why four words?

Ancient Greek categories of love:

*Eros* – \_\_\_\_\_ love, lust, desire, intimacy

Appears \_\_\_\_\_ times in the New Testament.

*Storge* – \_\_\_\_\_ love, obligation, relationship

In the New Testament it is combined with *philos* (**Romans 12:10**) to make *philostorgos*  
What might the combining of these words intend to teach?

The only other occurrence in the NT is when it is made negative

*astorgos* – **Romans 1:31, 2 Timothy 3:3**

*Philos* – \_\_\_\_\_, soul connection

*phileo* (verb) occurs 25 times in the NT, usually meaning to love (3 of them are “kiss”),

Many of these cases could be understood more as “to \_\_\_\_\_” or “to have affection”

*philos* (noun) occurs 29 times in the NT and is always translated “\_\_\_\_\_”

“Eros will have naked \_\_\_\_\_; friendship [*philos*] naked \_\_\_\_\_.”

-C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

Sometimes combines with its object to make a different word:

**Luke 16:14, 2 Timothy 3:2** – *philargyros* – “lover of \_\_\_\_\_”

**Titus 3:4** – *philanthropia* – “love for \_\_\_\_\_”

**1 Thessalonians 4:9**, etc. – *philadelphia* – “love for \_\_\_\_\_”

**Titus 1:8, 1 Peter 4:9**, etc. – *philoxenos* – “love for \_\_\_\_\_, hospitality”

*Agape* – Sacrificial love, giving of self, \_\_\_\_\_ love

Not commonly used in Greek before \_\_\_\_\_ picks it up and \_\_\_\_\_ it.

*agapeo* (verb) occurs \_\_\_\_\_ times in the New Testament

*agape* (noun) occurs \_\_\_\_\_ times in the New Testament

Whenever love is a \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture, it is *agape*.

#### So are they different words?

*Philos* and *agape* are sometimes interchangeable, especially in John

**John 5:20** the word to describe the \_\_\_\_\_ love of the \_\_\_\_\_ is *phileo*.

In **John 20:2** he uses *phileo* and in **John 21:7** he uses *agapeo* to say the \_\_\_\_\_.

In **John 14:23** and **16:27**, God’s love for the disciples uses \_\_\_\_\_ verbs.

**Revelation 3:19** and **Hebrews 12:6** \_\_\_\_\_ the same Old Testament verse,  
each using a \_\_\_\_\_ Greek word for love.

So what do we do with **John 21:15-17**?

## How the Bible Created “agape”

### God \_\_\_\_\_ agape for us

God does not allow us to understand agape on our own terms, or to define it according to our own \_\_\_\_\_

In Scripture, he tells us what love \_\_\_\_ and what it \_\_\_\_\_ like

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

**John 14:15, 21**

**1 John 3:17-18**

### God \_\_\_\_\_ agape to us

He not only *tells* us what love looks like, he also \_\_\_\_\_ us what love looks like.

Specifically, the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus is the way we know what love is.

**John 3:16**

**John 13:34**

**1 John 3:16, 4:9**

**Ephesians 5:2**

### God \_\_\_\_\_ agape from us

A significant number of the uses of the word agape have to do with how we treat \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 John 4:20-21**

**1 Corinthians 16:14**

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

**Luke 6:27**

### God \_\_\_\_\_ agape in us

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God doesn't just show us love and call us to love,

he also makes us \_\_\_\_\_ to show love

**Galatians 5:22**

**Romans 5:5**

**1 John 4:19**

## How agape rewrites the categories

Agape is by far the dominant word in Scripture for love. And that means something:

Eros is all but \_\_\_\_\_ from the conversation.

Where we would expect to see *storge*, we see *agape* (**Ephesians 5:25**)

Where we would expect to see *philia*, we see *agape* (**Luke 6:35**)

Most amazingly, we see that *agape* is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of all of the Old Testament law.

**Matthew 22:37-40; Romans 13:10; Galatians 5:14**

The gospel in the New Testament serves as a critique of the Greek \_\_\_\_\_ between loves.

The three other loves in the Greek worldview require some \_\_\_\_\_ – kinship, desire, affection.

But the lesson of Scripture is that *true* love acts selflessly and \_\_\_\_\_. (**Luke 6:32**)

And that only happens because God first loves us,

\_\_\_\_\_ us what love is and giving us the \_\_\_\_\_ to love others.