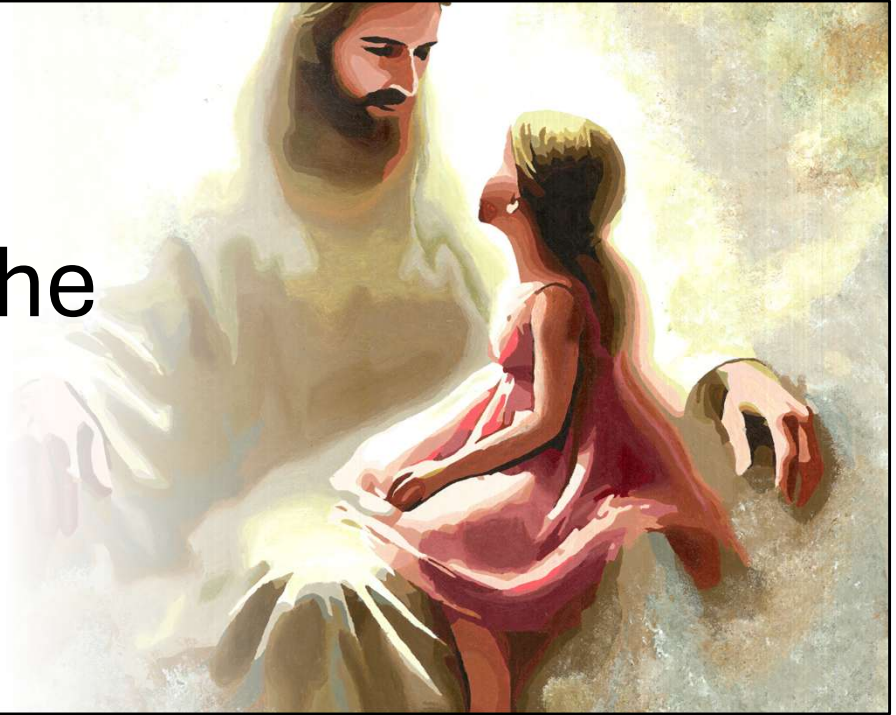


Loving the Lord



Love is mentioned in
the Bible:

310 times in KJV

348 times in NASB

361 times (NKJV)

574 times in NIV

645 times in NLT

684 times in ESV.





- Deut. 6:5(ONM) - And you will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with your very being, and with all your might.
- Matt. 22:36-38 (ONM)– “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Torah (teaching)?” And he said to him, “You will love the Lord your God with your whole heart and with your whole being and with your whole mind: this is the greatest and first commandment.”
- Mark 12:33 & Luke 10:27
 - The Hebrew word for love in these verses is **Ahavah**, representing a deep, active, and selfless commitment that goes beyond mere emotion, encompassing divine, familial, and deep friendship bonds, rooted in the Hebrew word hav (הב), meaning "to give".
 - In Greek it is Agape

Deut 6:5

Heart Definition from Strongs Concordance: inner man, mind, will, heart, soul, understanding

Soul Definition : that which breathes, the breathing substance or being, soul, the inner being of man

Might Definition: exceedingly, up to abundance, to a great degree, exceedingly

Different Kinds of Love

- **Storge:**

- Natural affection, like the love between family members or parents and children.

- **Philia:**

- Deep friendship, affection, and loyalty between equals; brotherly love.

The joyful, loyal bond between friends, built on shared experiences and mutual appreciation.

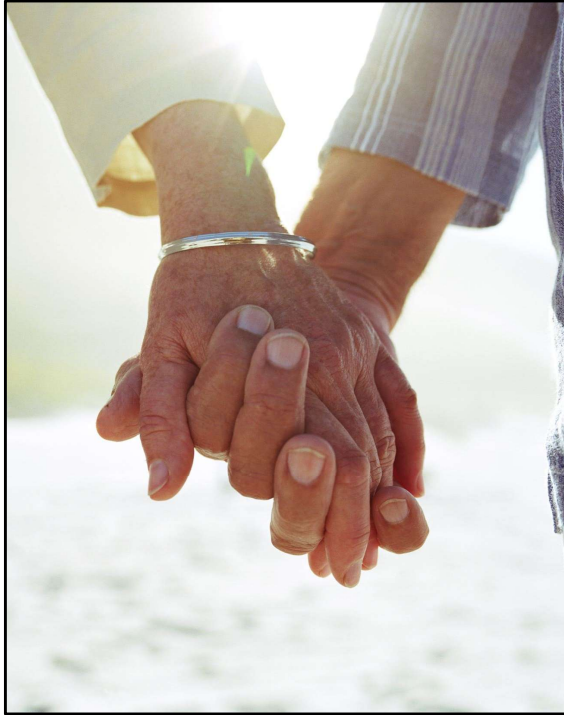
The love that unites people as equals, emphasizing kinship and shared community.

Biblical examples –

David and Jonathan's relationship in 1 Samuel

John 15:12-15(ONM) - This is my commandment, that you would love one another just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life on behalf of his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing: but I have called you friends, because everything which I heard from my father I made known to you.

Examples: Close sibling relationships, deep friendships, and the love within a supportive community all exemplify philia.



Different Kinds of Love

- **Pragma:**

- Enduring, long-standing love, often found in committed marriages.

- **Philautia:**

- Self-love, which can be healthy (self-compassion) or unhealthy (narcissism).

Philautia: Self-love, which can be healthy (self-compassion) or unhealthy (narcissism).

This kind of love can mean two different things. It can be a destructive, narcissistic vice (2 Tim 3:2 - For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,) and, it can also be healthy and a necessary foundation for loving others ("love your neighbor as yourself"). It represents self-care, self-esteem, and self-preservation, which allows us to better serve others.

Different Kinds of Love

- **Ludus:**

- Playful, flirtatious, or uncommitted love, like early dating.

- **Mainia:**

- Obsessive or possessive love, often linked to jealousy and imbalance.

- Examples:

- David and Bathsheba
- Samson and Delilah
- Amnon and Tamar
- Saul's Jealousy toward David



Ludus: Playful, flirtatious, or uncommitted love, like early dating.

Mania: Obsessive or possessive love, often linked to jealousy and imbalance.

This kind of love can lead to very destructive behaviors

The focus is on owning the other person rather than seeking their well-being.

Examples:

David and Bathsheba

Samson and Delilah

Amnon and Tamar

Saul's Jealousy toward David

Eros

- Relates to intense, often overwhelming, physical and emotional attraction, the "butterflies" of new love.
- It is often described as being centered on the person feeling the attraction and an intense desire to be near the object of affection.
- Eros alone is often not seen as a complete foundation for a lasting relationship.



Passionate, often sexual, desire or romantic love; the root of "erotic". The core meaning relates to intense, often overwhelming, physical and emotional attraction, the "butterflies" of new love.

In essence, *Eros* is the fiery, magnetic force of attraction, a divine power, and a fundamental human drive, extending from raw lust to spiritual longing.

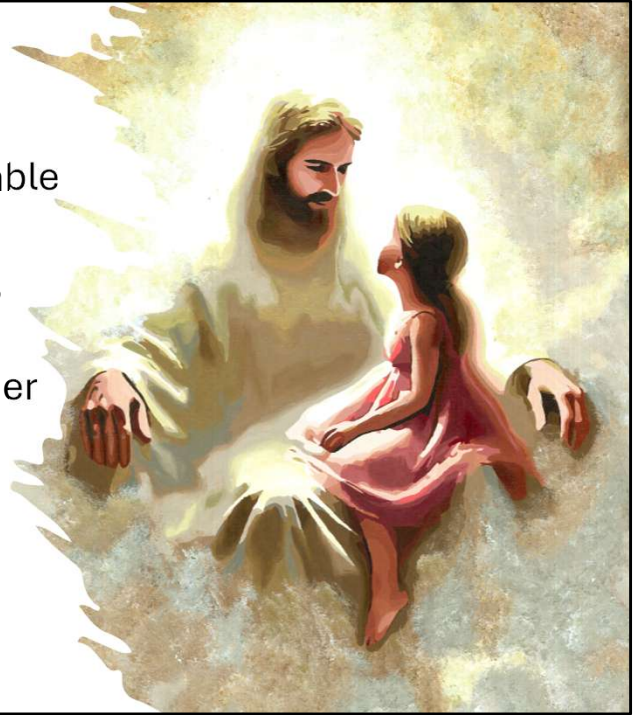
It is often described as being centered on the person feeling the attraction and an intense desire to be near the object of affection. While powerful, eros alone is often not seen as a complete foundation for a lasting relationship.

Biblical Examples:

Isn't directly used in the Bible. It emphasizes its expression within holy marital bonds (Hebrews 13:4) and warns against lust, distinguishing true marital passion from sinful desire, showing eros as part of God's design for intimacy, not debauchery.

Agape

- Unconditional, selfless, charitable love for others
- Represents selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional love
- Not based on emotion, but rather it is a conscious decision, an action
- 1 Corinthians 13 (TPT)



Agape: Unconditional, selfless, charitable love for others, often spiritual.

It represents selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional love, particularly God's love for humanity. It is a deliberate choice to seek the well-being of others without expecting return.

It is about giving to others, even to the point of personal sacrifice. not based on emotion, but rather it is a conscious decision, an action, promoting the good of another person.

Unconditional: This love is not dependent on the recipient's actions, character, or worthiness, but is a steadfast and constant love.

1 Corinthians 13 (TPT)

Emphasize verse 10 & 11

As we mature in our relationship with God He matures our love for Him

It starts off as Storge love where there is a natural affection like a child with a parent because you realize that He loves you. You see all these things He has done for you so out of that Love grows because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

As we mature in Him it becomes a Philia love because it

is “built on shared experiences and mutual appreciation.”

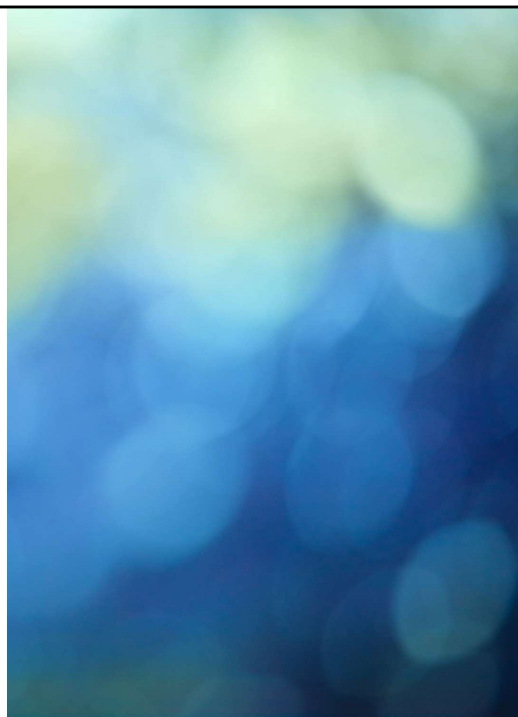
But we need to shift into Agape Love, that is where deep intimacy lives and where we stop trying to change ourselves. The change just happens as a natural outpouring of your Love for God.

Unshared Love (Bob Mumford)

Illusion: “I could be a better Christian if I decide to be one.”

Reality: John 15:5, without God we can do nothing

Eros Shift: “our secular society and a weakened church has deceived us into thinking that we can will ourselves be better Christians-if we pray, fast and study God's word. All of these are good things, but alone are insufficient to make us better Christians. The reality is that without a personal relationship with Jesus, we are helpless and hopeless no matter what the world or the church says.”



Unshared Love

In Bob Mumford’s Unshared Love book and videos he stated that there is an illusion that we believe: “I could be a better Christian if I decide to be one.”

Reality: John 15:5, without God we can do nothing

He says that part of our problem is an Eros shift, “our secular society and a weakened church has deceived us into thinking that we can will ourselves be better Christians-if we pray, fast and study God's word. All of these are good things, but alone are insufficient to make us better Christians. The reality is that without a personal relationship with Jesus, we are helpless and hopeless no matter what the world or the church says.”

“Revivals occur with greater frequency than reformations. They are the product in part of the Christian churches attempt to be obedient to the scripture. But they cannot prevent or reverse a paradigm shift until they assume the proportions of a reformation; Even then it may take much time, even a lifetime or more, to bring society back on course. Despite our revivals, we are still in a downward course, for nothing resembling a personal reformation has yet occurred in the 20th century.”



How do we shift our paradigms?

- Eros love is very ego-centric, it is basically men seeking God to satisfy his own spiritual hunger
- Our love cannot stay in this place,
- It cannot be the foundation of our relationship with the Lord.
- It is not a firm foundation.

Eros love is very egocentric, it is basically men seeking God to satisfy his own spiritual hunger by the possession and enjoyment of the divine perfections. We pursue God for our own wants and needs.

Now remember earlier I said that it is very normal that we start our love in this place. Because God first loved us.

Our love cannot stay in this place, it cannot be the foundation of our relationship with the Lord. Because it is not a very firm foundation.

Examples: if your love is based on everything God does for you and that is the only reason why you love him, then anytime something bad happens you will fall out of love with God and blame him because you don't understand his character or why he did something.

How do we shift our paradigms?

- One very important aspect of any relationship is understanding someone's character.
- Agape love seeks God for his own sake
 - Agape love is indifferent to value
 - It's not kindled by the attractiveness
 - It's not quenched by the unattractiveness of an object
 - It is not determined by the worthiness or unworthiness of those God loves.



One very important aspect of any relationship is understanding someone's character.

Once you understand someone's character then you will understand the reason why God sent the rain in your life was to test your character and to strengthen you, not because he hates you, not because he expects you to fail. But it's because he's strengthening you for what is to come next. Because after the rain comes the flowers and the beautiful fragrance that you will emanate for his glory!

Agape love seeks God for his own sake

it is setting our affections on God because he is God.

It's not seeking anything in return.

Agape love is indifferent to value: it's not kindled by the attractiveness and it's not quenched by the unattractiveness of an object, and is not determined by the worthiness or unworthiness of those God loves.

It is determined by God's own nature of love!

True intimacy only happens between two people when there is no hidden agenda.

Bob Mumford puts it in the context of Eros love having a hook in it, and Agape love points to the other person, it is a straight arrow.

The Seven Giants of Eros



How our Love for God Shifts

In order to shift our love we need to understand the seven giants of Eros.

Look good

We want to look good in the sight of men, and we think more highly of ourselves than we ought to.

Feel good

The expectation of feeling good all the time, physically or spiritually, is not reality. Our role as Christians is to suffer. Romans 5: 3-5: and not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulations bring about perseverance; And perseverance, proven character; And proven character, hope; And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts to the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Be right

Being right feeds our pride and we believe being wrong will diminish us.

Stay in control

We are afraid to lose control, our ultimate fear is death. We

need to believe his word that he means us no harm and that we are his children.

Personal advantage

We try to get ahead in life, and we want all of our needs met. But God watches the sparrows and close the lilies, Matthew 6:25-33; 10:29-31.

Hidden agenda

Sometimes this agenda is even hidden from us, we don't realize that we are seeking God for our own advantage until something happens that we perceive is bad.

Undisturbed

A lot of us claim to be introverts, because we don't like to be disturbed. We act as if we don't need anyone else including God.

How to defeat the Giants

The Sermon on the Mount Matt. 5:1-12

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Look Good | poor in spirit(v.3) |
| 2. Feel Good | mourn (v.4) |
| 3. Be Right | gentle and meek (v.5) |
| 4. Stay in Control | hunger and thirst for righteousness (v.6) |
| 5. Personal Advantage | merciful (v.7) |
| 6. Hidden Agenda | pure in heart (v.8) |
| 7. Undisturbed | peacemakers and persecuted (v.9-10) |

How to Defeat the Giants

The emptying of Jesus from Philippians 2

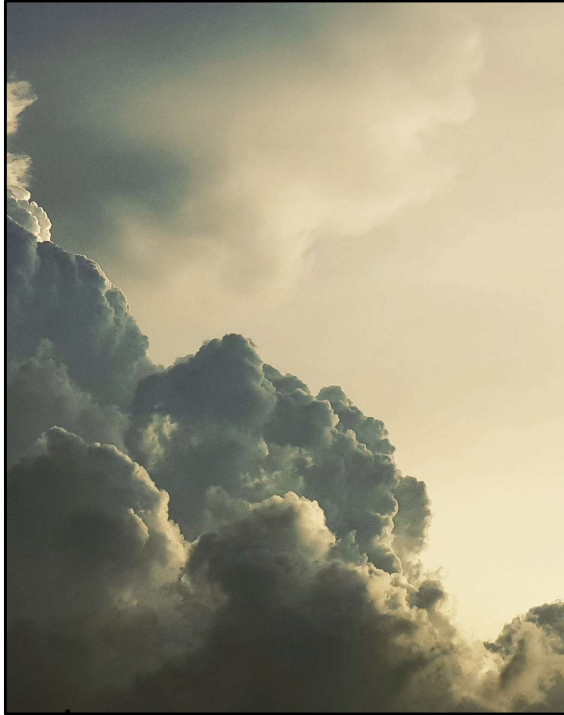
- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Look Good | existed in the form of God (v.6) |
| 2. Feel Good | obedient to the point of death (v.8) |
| 3. Be Right | he emptied himself (v.7) |
| 4. Stay in Control | equality with God was not grasped (v.6) |
| 5. Personal Advantage | taking the form of a bond servant (v.7) |
| 6. Hidden Agenda | made into the likeness of men (v.7) |
| 7. Undisturbed | humbled himself to the point of death on
the cross (v.8) |

How to Defeat the Giants 1 Cor. 13

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Not jealous (v.4) | Look Good |
| 2. Not brag (v.4) | Look Good |
| 3. Not act unbecoming (v.5) | Feel Good |
| 4. Bear all things (v.7) | Feel Good |
| 5. Endure all things (v.7) | Feel Good |
| 6. Not take into account a wrong suffered (v.5) | Be Right |
| 7. Not rejoice in unrighteousness (v.6) | Be Right |
| 8. Rejoice in truth (v.6) | Be Right |

How to Defeat the Giants 1 Cor. 13

9. Patient (v.4)	Stay in Control
10. Not provoked (v.5)	Stay in Control
11. Not seeking its own (v.5)	Hidden Agenda
12. Hopes all things (v.7)	Hidden Agenda
13. Kind (v.4)	Personal Advantage
14. Not arrogant (v.4)	Personal Advantage
15. Believes all things (v.7)	Personal Advantage
16. Never fails (v.8)	Undisturbed



How Loving God for Who He is Changes You

- Romans 8:29 - talks about being conformed to the image of Christ
 - Peter's conversion
- When we set our love on God, His Agape fills the center of our beings, forcing every one of these giants to the peripheral until God becomes the one who:
 - Guides
 - Leads
 - Motivates
 - And Controls Us.

- a) Romans 8:29 - talks about being conformed to the image of Christ, this is not what happens at salvation. Being conformed to the image of Christ takes time, it is not an overnight thing. It involves deep repentance and it produces personal as well as corporate reformation.
 - i) Peter's conversion after Jesus had already been raised from the dead was not a conversion of him becoming saved. By that time he had already confessed that Jesus was Lord. His conversion in Luke 22: 32 was being conformed into God's image through repentance and declaring his love for the Lord
- b) When we set our love on God his agape fills the center of our beings forcing every one of these giants to the peripheral until God becomes the one who guides, leads, motivates, and controls us.

How Loving God for Who He is Changes You

Revelations 4:7-11 (ONM)

- All the living creatures could say when they saw the Lord was “holy, holy, holy, Lord God of host who was and who is and who is to come.”
- And all the elders could say was “worthy are you, our Lord and our God to receive glory and honor and power, because you did create all things and by your will they indeed were created.”

Have you come to this point in your walk with the Lord?

We need to get to this point:

Revelations 4:7-11 (ONM)

All the living creatures could say when they saw the Lord was “holy, holy, holy, Lord God of host who was and who is and who is to come.”

And all the elders could say was “worthy are you, our Lord and our God to receive glory and honor and power, because you did create all things and by your will they indeed were created.”

Have you come to this point in your walk with the Lord?

When all you can do stare at him and repeat the same thing over and over again.

It doesn't have to be eloquent

It doesn't have to contain multiple words or be long drawn out sentences.

Have you ever sat there so in awe of God that even nothing comes out of your mouth because you're just amazed.

It has nothing to do with what he's done for you, even though that's brought you to this point, but it has everything to do with him and his character and who he is.



How Loving God for Who He is Changes You

- Our love for God needs to shift!
- We need to come out of Eros love, we need to stop thinking of our own agendas, our own wants, our own needs.
- Our love needs to shift from loving God as a Father, to seeing him as a friend, to finally loving Him for who He is

This is where true intimacy
lies!

This is where reformation
happens!

This is what prepares us for
revival!

