



09.14.2025

Summary

This sermon is part of a series on agape love, focusing on correcting common misconceptions about God's love by explaining what it is not. The speaker argues that society and Hollywood have distorted our understanding of love, teaching us that love is primarily based on feelings, performance, or being "nice." Instead, true agape love is unconditional, corrective when necessary, and willing to speak difficult truths. The speaker uses personal anecdotes about parenting and marriage, biblical examples including Jesus cleansing the temple, and references to martyrdom (including Charlie Kirk) to illustrate that genuine love sometimes requires difficult actions that may not appear "nice" but serve the person's ultimate good.

Top Points

- Agape love is not based on feelings - Unlike cultural portrayals of love (Hollywood, Valentine's Day), God's love doesn't depend on emotions or how someone makes you feel
- Love is not based on performance or conditions - True love is covenant-based, not contract-based; it doesn't depend on the other person keeping their end of a bargain
- Love should not be mistaken for being "nice" - Being loving sometimes requires correction, discipline, and speaking difficult truths, even when it's uncomfortable
- Parental discipline demonstrates love - The speaker uses the example of spanking his son to show that correction, though unpleasant, comes from love and prevents future problems
- Jesus was not always "nice" - Examples include cleansing the temple and saying he came to bring a sword, not peace, showing that love sometimes requires confrontation
- True love requires telling people about Jesus - Even if it makes others uncomfortable, sharing the gospel is an act of love, not staying silent to be "nice"

- Society's definition of love leads to failed relationships - When love is based on feelings or performance, relationships end when those conditions aren't met
- God's love includes correction - The seven churches in Revelation received corrective messages from Jesus because he loved them
- Love may cause division - Following Christ authentically may create conflict with family and friends, but this doesn't negate the love behind the decision
- Martyrdom represents ultimate agape love - People like Charlie Kirk who died for their faith demonstrate love by prioritizing truth over personal safety

Top Quotes

On the nature of agape love:

"Agape has nothing to do with feeling. And that's a problem for us because we've grown up a lot of times what we considered love is what our culture and our society considers to be love."

On societal misconceptions:

"We've been taught what L-O-V-E means by a bunch of teachers in Hollywood that are failing miserably at this L-O-V-E thing."

"A lot of people think being nice is being loving, and that is wrong."

On parental discipline:

"Spare the rod, hate the child. Let me paraphrase that for you. You don't correct the child, you're hating your child."

On Jesus and confrontation:

"Think not that I am come to send peace on the earth. I've come not to send peace, but a sword."

On telling others about Jesus:

"The best way I can love him is by telling him the truth."

On the power of agape love:

"When you learn to operate in love... You're going to be a hard individual to beat, to bring down, to take down. That's victory right there."

"By this shall all men know that you're my disciples by the love that you have toward one another."