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Summary

This sermon continues a series on the love of God, specifically contrasting shallow forms of love (eros, phileo, storge) with true agape love. The speaker argues that society's understanding of love has been corrupted by Hollywood portrayals and emphasizes that agape love is not based on feelings or emotions but on choice and commitment. Using Jesus as the ultimate example, the sermon demonstrates how agape love is selfless, covenant-based rather than contractual, and expressed through kindness rather than mere "niceness."

Top Points

- Four Types of Love in Greek: *Eros* (sexual/attraction), *Phileo* (friendship/common interest), *Storge* (family love), and *Agape* (God's unconditional love)
- The Danger of Emotion-Based Love: All forms of love except *agape* are ultimately selfish and changeable, based on how others make us feel
- *Storge* Love's Limitations: Even family love can become selfish and overprotective, focusing on "I birthed them, I raised them" rather than what's best for the loved one
- Love is Not Hollywood: Society's concept of love has been distorted by media portrayals that emphasize feelings over commitment
- Contract vs. Covenant: True love is covenant-based (unconditional commitment) rather than contract-based (conditional exchange)
- Love is Not Nice, But Kind: Jesus wasn't always "nice" but was always kind - expressing goodwill even when correcting or confronting
- Jesus as the Perfect Example: From washing Judas's feet to praying for his disciples while facing crucifixion, Jesus demonstrated selfless agape love

- Practical Application: Agape love means choosing to bless even those who hurt you, staying above reproach, and making decisions based on what's best for others rather than personal feelings

Top Quotes

On the Nature of Agape Love:

"Agape love is not feeling, is not emotional. It is happily ever after, but it's not the Disney happily ever after."

On Selfish Love:

"When you eros love someone, you're drawn to them. Let's be very honest. You're drawn to them because of how they make you feel. So it ends up being about you."

On Hollywood's Influence:

"Love is not Hollywood. Listen, this is important. We have grown up in a society where we have been taught what love is by what we see on TV, what the older generations above us modeled."

On Contract vs. Covenant:

"Marriages today, people are coming down, I'm not even going to say down the aisle, but that's why I am putting a pause on doing marriages... I'm marrying him because this is a holy covenant."

On Family Love's Potential Selfishness:

"I birthed them. I raised them. I sacrificed. I this, I this. How many times do you hear the word I? I and my, I and my."

On Kindness vs. Niceness:

"Love is not nice, but love is kind... Jesus did a lot of things that would be categorized not nice... But listen, he said it all in the name of love."

On God's Transformative Power:

"It's the goodness of God that leads sinners to repentance... It's kindness, goodwill towards someone that causes a heart to change."

On Jesus's Example:

"In his darkest hour, when he could have been saying, Father, help me, Father me, Father this, Father that, he was praying, he was agaping those in his life."

On Living in Agape:

"You cannot fulfill your assignment on this earth if you're not living in love and you're not walking out in faith."