

Agapé Love

(The Foundation For Healthy Relationships)

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(1 Corinthians 13:4-8 ESV)

"Love (agapé) is patient and kind; love (agapé) does not envy or boast; it (agapé) is not arrogant or rude. It (agapé) does not insist on its own way; it (agapé) is not irritable or resentful; it (agapé) does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love (agapé) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love (agapé) never ends...

-- Four Key Characteristics of Agapé --

1. Patience

(not jealous or boastful)

Tries to be NON-REACTIONARY when frustrated or angry.

Controls ANGER rather than letting ANGER control a response.

Honors FEELINGS and LISTENS to the other person.

BACKS OFF of confrontation if necessary until a more appropriate time.

Allows the other person to EXPRESS and GROW at their own pace.

2. Kindness

(not arrogant or rude, does not insist its own way, not irritable or resentful)

Seeks to UNDERSTAND the other person, and their viewpoint.

Does not allow anger to HARM others.

Tries to COMMUNICATE and considers the other person's feelings.

Avoids cruel, accusatory, and inflammatory LANGUAGE.

Seeks to relate through acts of KINDNESS.

3. Integrity

(rejoices in the right not the wrong)

Seeks to live in the context of TRUTH and HONESTY.

Seeks UNDERSTANDING (knowledge of the real issues, the truth).

Seeks to do the RIGHT thing (according to Scripture).

Admits when WRONG (repentant).

Acknowledges FEELINGS and FACTS (avoids hidden agendas).

4. Endurance

(bears all things [protects], believes [trusts], hopes, never ends [perseveres])

Seeks RESOLUTION and RECONCILIATION in times of conflict.

Commits the time and effort necessary to resolve PROBLEMS and to RECONCILE issues and relationships.

Willing to do what is necessary to make a RELATIONSHIP thrive.

Always hopes for IMPROVEMENT and growth in a relationship.

Does not GIVE UP on a relationship.

Additional Sermon Notes

Base Camp Discussion Questions

- Discuss each of the above characteristics of Agapé, and share times when you have been successful and unsuccessful in practicing them.
- Talk about how to hold one another accountable to practice these characteristics of Agapé.
- Pray for one another to be more attentive to the Jesus as He, through the Holy Spirit, helps you to love the way He loves.