

2025-07-19 Perfect Love

Credit to Rabbi Eric Lakatos, his short teaching inspired me

Talked about offenses last Shabbat, the opposite today – love

What is love not? Love is not a feeling or emotion

6 meanings to the word love in English

1st romantic love – powered by human hormones created by God

For the continuation of the human race

A passionate desire to be with, care for, bring joy to the beloved

People speak of falling in romantic love

As if it controls them & it can't be controlled

2nd parental love – different from romantic love

God created parental love of parents for their children

So children would be cared for, nurtured

Parents sacrifice greatly for their children

3rd children's love – God created children's love for their parents

Based on parents caring for, providing

Giving affection to their children

4th brotherly love – phileo

Caring for someone because you are siblings, raised together

Had common experiences, cared for each other

Applies to people who've gone through difficulties together

Soldiers who fought together, teams, co-workers

5th recently our woke culture has defined another kind of love

Affirming love – if you love me you'll affirm

My immoral lifestyle choices

In God's mind affirming love is not love

You can love someone whose choices you don't agree with

Without affirming his or her choices

6th God's love - agape love, selfless, sacrificial

It is a choice made by your free will, a decision

Ex: Pat C. during covid walked & prayed every day outside

The nursing home where his wife was confined

Because they wouldn't let him in

Did this even though his wife was suffering from dementia

& often didn't know he was out there

*(TLV) 1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love (agape), but **perfect love** (agape) drives out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and the one who fears has not been **made perfect in love (agape)**.*

Perfect love is godly love, agape in Greek

Linguists say Yeshua coined this word

God's perfect love, agape love drives out fear

If you still struggle with fear

You have" not been made perfect in agape love"

The evidence you have been made perfect in agape love

Is the absence of fears

Let's dig into this revelation of John

Some fear is beneficial – in dangerous situations like

When you're on a sidewalk & an out of control car

Suddenly is coming at you

Fear releases adrenalin which enables you to flee faster

Or, in some situations fight

Then there is unwarranted fear - it is not beneficial

There are many types of unwarranted fears

Stress, anxiety, panic, terror, fear of witnessing

Fear of public speaking, rejection, conflict, fear of failure

These are not beneficial

Chronic unwarranted fear is the spiritual root of many sicknesses

We all struggle with unwarranted fear so we all need

Further **perfecting** in God's agape love

Being perfected in God's love means your trust is increasing that
 God is taking care of you, protecting, providing, guiding you
 So you will be less subject to unwarranted fears

Because the Lord is taking care of you

Ex: I memorized this verse and declare it whenever I am tempted
 By the spirit of fear

It reminds me that God loves me with His agape love
 & He will protect, guide, take care of me

That increases my perfection in agape love

Meaning my trust that He loves me & is taking care of me
 & when you are trusting God's love

You don't need to concern yourself with protecting
 Or providing for yourself

So, you are free to serve, provide for, care for others
 Your trust in God's love frees you from selfishness

Fear of lack, loss, so you can pour out God's love to others

Ex: story of helping Earl & God sending Steve to help us

We are to desire to be made perfect in God's love, to trust it more
 It's not a onetime event, you aren't made perfect in love

The moment you get saved

Ruach Ha Kodesh is refining you to make you perfect in God's
 love

You are slowly daily growing in love, a fruit of the Spirit
 Does the Bible give us further understanding

Of what this perfect love that is your goal is like? Lots

Leviticus 19:18... love your neighbor as yourself...

Loving your neighbor as yourself is a noble, godly goal

But, Yeshua calls you to an even higher level of perfection in love

How does Yeshua want you to love?

John 13:34 "I am giving you a new command: that you keep on loving each other. In the same way that I have loved you, you are also to keep on loving each other."

How did Yeshua agape love you? He describes it Himself

John 15:13 No one has greater love than a person who lays down his life for his friends.

That is a description of the perfect, agape love you are called to
Laying down your life for your friends

Very important to understand He meant this as an analogy

Although Yeshua laid down His physical life on the cross
& there have been many martyrs since

“Laying down your life” does not mean committing suicide

It means laying down your desires, dreams, agenda, rights

Selfishness **while you are alive** to follow the Lord

Rabbi Sha’ul applies this to a very special friend of all married men
(TLV) *Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives just as Messiah also loved His community and gave Himself up for her*

So, agape love means you’re to lay down your life for your friends

Especially husbands for your wives

But it gets even more difficult

Agape love goes beyond love for friends

Matthew 5:44 But I tell you, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

So, the standard Yeshua is calling you & I to being perfected in love

Means even loving, sacrificing for your enemies

Remember love is a decision, not a feeling so you **can** do this

You have to set your will to do it

& I believe when you do Ruach Ha Kodesh will enable you to do it

And move upon your enemy to bring reconciliation
 Why would God pour out His love on you when
 You still sin, have ungodly attitudes
 Rabbi Sha'ul gives further understanding of why
*Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in that the
 Messiah died on our behalf while we were still sinners.*
 This is a great revelation of the nature of God's love
 His love for all the humans He created, including you, is so great
 That He was willing to die for each one, including you
 While you were still a sinner
 Meaning before you repented, while you were still His enemy
 According to Strong's – sinner = depraved, detestable to God
 Loving others the way Yeshua loves you
 Is the most difficult command of God in the Bible
 Because your flesh, carnal nature wants to rule your life
 We all want our flesh to be comfortable, safe
 In your position, job, relationships, finances
 But, you must overcome your flesh to love perfectly
 Surrendering your own comfort, desires, rights, agenda
 Putting others first
 Paul gives a beautiful further description of agape love
1 Corinthians 13:2...if I lack love, I am nothing.
 Without love you and I are nothing, we have no eternal value
4 Love is patient and kind, not jealous, not boastful,
5 not proud, rude or selfish, not easily angered, and it keeps no
record of wrongs.
 Love forgives, does not seek its own way, to always be right
6 Love does not gloat over other people's sins but takes its delight in
the truth.

7 Love always bears up, always trusts, always hopes, always endures.

8 Love never ends;

We all fall short of this standard by arrogance, conceit, fear
Or bitterness, selfishness, fear, control

You can't just will yourself to have this kind of love
How do you get this kind of love?

*Romans 5:5 ...God's love for us has **already** been poured out in our hearts through the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) who has been given to us.*

Ruach Ha Kodesh pours God's agape love into your heart
When He comes to dwell in you on salvation

His agape love in you slowly begins transforming your natural love
Romantic love, love for children, parents, siblings

Into His agape love, in a lifelong process
& after salvation He pours more of His agape love into you
When you are first filled to overflowing with Ruach Ha Kodesh
& He continues to pour it into you when you refill with Ruach Ha Kodesh

How do you keep that love pouring into you? Keep being filled to
Overflowing with Ruach Ha Kodesh, being led by Ruach Ha Kodesh through worship

John gives us more instruction on perfecting agape love
(TLV) 1 John 4:7 Loved ones, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

You must be born again & know God personally
To love with agape love

If you're not loving with agape love

It's because you don't know God, you may know about God

But you don't know Him personally
 If you know God, Ruach Ha Kodesh is in you & because He is
 agape love

*(TLV) Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew He also
 predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He
 might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

His agape love in you is Ruach Ha Kodesh conforming you to
 image of Yeshua

Not the physical image but His character
 Also love is one of the fruits of the spirit

Fruits take time to grow & ripen
*1 John 4:8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God
 is love.*

God is love is one of the most important statements

About God in the Bible
*9 The love of God was revealed among us by this—that God sent
 His one and only Son into the world so that we might live through
 Him.*

*10 This is love—not that we have loved God, but that He loved us
 and sent His Son as an atonement for our sins.*

Yeshua's sacrificial death revealed to you & I nature of agape love
*11 Loved ones, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one
 another.*

Why should we love one another, other believers?

Because God loves you & them enough to die for them
 To truly love God you must love those whom He loves
*12 No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God abides in
 us and His love is **made perfect** in us.*

God, Ruach Ha Kodesh will only abide, dwell in you

If you love your brothers & sisters with agape love
 & Ruach Ha Kodesh abiding in you will **perfect** His love in you
 Making your love more & more like Yeshua's love
 In what way is God's love perfected in you?

Your ability to love is made perfect
 Becomes like God's agape, selfless love

By God who is love dwelling in you, by Ruach Ha Kodesh
 If God dwells in you & God is agape love

Then agape love already dwells in you
 As you follow the leading of Ruach Ha Kodesh & love others
 You will experience more & more of God's love for you
 As you pour it out to others, He pours His love into you

That is your incentive for loving with
 Agape, selfless, undemanding, love

19 We love, because He first loved us.

Your agape love is somewhat like a child's love for his parents
 You love God because He first loved you

& provided salvation, healing, deliverance, purpose
*20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar.
 For the one who does not love his brother, whom he has seen,
 cannot love God, whom he has not seen.*

Test of loving God, where the rubber hits the road

Is that you love your brothers and sisters whom God loves
 But, it's here's another step up in the standard God is calling you to
 God loves more people than your brothers & sisters in the Lord
*John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only and
 unique Son, so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal
 life, instead of being utterly destroyed.*

God loves the world, not the rocks, trees & oceans but all the people

In the world

So, the test of loving God is that you love **everyone**

Because the God you love loves them all

The more you know God's love the more victory you'll have

Over all kinds of unwarranted fear, selfishness, bitterness

Unforgiveness, pride, resentment, hatred

What prevents people, maybe you

From having your love perfected into God's agape love?

You have to know God's love to trust He'll take care of you

Not know about God's love, but know His love

Experience it, trust it

How? Pray for it. Pray to hear Him say & show you He loves you

Love is not an emotion but God did create us

To have emotional reactions to being loved

Tenakh & Brit Hadashah record people experiencing strong feelings

As they are impacted by God

When God appeared to Daniel he became weak, fell to the ground
& couldn't get up

The woman who washed Yeshua's feet did it with her tears of joy

When God's love is poured out in your heart

You will know God's love, not just know about God's love

When I first gave my heart to the Lord it was overwhelming

The most wonderful feeling imaginable

The creator of the universe loves me, like He loves Yeshua

I felt joy, shalom, hope, fulfillment

God is no respecter of persons:

It is the most wonderful thing you will ever experience

Knowing God is all about having faith in His Word so

Some have taught you shouldn't have an emotional experience
 & when God's touches your heart you are afraid to receive it
 What else prevents you from knowing God's love?
 Be In Health Ministries has identified a spirit they call Unloving
 This spirit prevents people from receiving God's & human love
 It also prevents people from loving God & others
 & it is the root of many diseases & dysfunctions
 How does unloving spirit gain power over people? 3 primary ways
 1st God created you & all humans to be born into families
 Where you'd be loved by parents, grandparents
 Aunts, uncles, all of whom are authority figures to a child
 You were meant to learn what the nature of love is
 In the loving environment of a godly, loving family
 Led by authority figures
 Yet many children & I'm sure some of you, were raised in families
 That are not godly & loving
 & weren't led by a loving authority figure
 Rather than learning what agape love is
 Those children learned to fear those in authority
 So, you struggle to receive love of God, ultimate authority figure
 Because the authority figures in your life did not love you
 Worst case is when authority figure, parent **told you** they loved you
 & then treated you in an unloving way, even abused you
 This situation gives you a fear
 That those who say they love you will hurt you
 It is a fear of being loved
 So, when God says He loves you, you understand it to mean
 He's going to hurt me
 Another 2nd way the unloving spirit gains power

Is through romantic love experiences that end poorly
 Like in betrayal, abandonment, conflict, accusations
 People who experience these will be afraid to let themselves love
 Because they fear it will result in pain
 That gives the unloving spirit power over you
 Power to keep you from loving others
 3rd the unloving spirit can be passed down from your ancestors
 You might have had great parents but somewhere in your line
 Someone was under the power of unloving spirit & pass it down
 Prayer
 Clear up the confusion about the meaning of love
 Help us to see it as an act of our wills
 Thank you for loving us while we were still sinners
 Thank you for revealing that You **are** love
 & when you dwell in us as Ruach Ha Kodesh,
 It's Your love that is dwelling in us
 Thank you for the great miracle of Ruach Ha Kodesh pouring your
 love into us
 Keep on filling us with Ruach Ha Kodesh, with Your love
 May each of us experience Your love pouring out on us
 Overwhelming us, may we hear You say I love you & believe it
 Help us to know Your love, not just know about Your love
 Thank you that Your agape, perfect love drives out fear
 Drive any unwarranted fears out of us
 Help us to trust that You love us
 & because You love us You will protect, guide, provide for us
 Help us to trust our well-being to you so we can care for others
 We recognize we've been selfish, repent, renounce
 And remove selfishness from our lives, help us resist its return

Help us live up to Your standards of agape love, loving our neighbors, friends, wives & our enemies & even unbelievers by laying down our lives for them

May we continue to grow in love as described in 1 Corinthians 13

We recognize the unloving spirit tempting us to fear Your love

We take responsibility for entertaining, going along with it

We repent of entertaining the unloving spirit

We renounce it & command it to leave us

Help us resist its return, refill us with Ruach Ha Kodesh

Renew our minds to accept Your love, others love

& to love others with the love You pour out on us