

## Relatability - Love

Ice-Breaker: Try to define “love.” Describe the first time you were “in love.”

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35) – List some ways Jesus loved us.

☞ We can't perform the how of love without defining the what of love.

How would you say society defines love compared or contrasted to the Biblical definition of love?

**Storge is the affectionate form of love** - “So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:8 ESV)- Recount what storge means from the sermon.

☞ God made this form of love

Towards whom do you **feel** tender, dear emotions towards at this moment? Does anyone receive your tender, storge, affection that is not your primary relationships such as a spouse? What is the risk for you in how you act towards them versus your primary relationship? If single, have you ever felt a fond affection that gave reason to pursue a romance? What happened?

**Philia is the friendship form of love** - “I no longer call you servants...Instead, I have called you friends...” (John 15:15)

☞ God made this form of love

How much of how you play, your significant other does the same? Who plays more? Why? What are some way you and your spouse, friends, family members can increase the level of philia (common interests) in your relationship? Do you have any friends that are different from your gender and if so, and does your spouse feel threatened by that?

**Eros is the romantic form of love** - “...Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires...How beautiful you are and how pleasing, O love, with your delights!” (Song of Songs 2:7; 7:6)

☞ God made this form of Love

Come up with a list of 5 things you both agree you can do, as a married couple or serious relationship, to increase the romance level in your relationship that isn't sex. If single, how do you put boundaries around a dating relationship in this day and age so you “do not arouse or awaken love before its time?”

**Agape is the divine form of love** – “God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.” (1 John 4:16b)

☞ God is this form of love

- **Agape is a decision** – “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...” (Matthew 5:43-44) – What specific person or group of people needs your decision to love?
- **Agape is an action** – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) – how can you show your primary relationships love (not just say it)? Also, turn to your spouse/significant other and recite the following phrase filling in the blank, “I feel loved when \_\_\_\_\_.” If your single, how could your future spouse fill in that blank?
- **Agape is selfless** – “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

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- *Agape love is nearly impossible – “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)*

On a scale of 1-10, how loving have you been lately? Name one way you can surprise someone with a love mentioned in this study. Take some time as a group to pray for the Holy Spirit's power to accomplish this this week. Then commit to practicing this moving forward more regularly.