

# WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW... - Part 1

Love

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Part of What the World Needs Now...

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**Love**

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**We're living in \_\_\_ times.**

**According to the Bible, the answer to crazy times lies in \_\_\_.**

**The problem is that what Jesus and the Bible mean by love may not be the same thing that the \_\_\_ around us, maybe even *we* mean, by love.**

**Four Greek words that are translated as "love" in English**

today:

- \_\_\_\_ - familial love, describing deep caring bonds that develop naturally between parents and children, siblings, or husbands and wives
- \_\_\_\_ - friendship love, describing, essentially *Storge* love applied to non-family members
- \_\_\_\_ - romantic or sexual love, which isn't intended to be impure but a gift from God to married couples
- \_\_\_\_ - the kind of love that God embodies, that chooses to accept someone for who they are and sacrificially works for their good.

*Anyone who does not **love (agapao)** does not know God, because God is **love (agape)**.*

*—1 John 4:8 (ESV) - emphasis & Greek added*

***Jesus:** 'For God so **loved (agapao)** the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.'*

*—John 3:16 (ESV) - emphasis & Greek added*

**Agape** love accepted us before any of us ever tried to \_\_\_\_ God.

*But God showed his great **love (agape)** for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

*—Romans 5:8 (NLT) - emphasis & Greek added*

God's *agape* love is unconditional, His eternal \_\_\_\_, based on *God's* own nature and character as *love*, and we can't stop Him from seeking to express that love to us.

The kind of love that the world around us usually talks about is a \_\_\_\_.

When the Bible talks about love in the New Testament, it \_\_\_\_ talks about *agape* love.

Because it is a choice, Jesus \_\_\_\_ his followers to express

**this kind of love in our daily lives.**

*Jesus: ... 'You shall love (agapao) the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first **commandment**. And a second is like it: You shall love (agapao) your neighbor as yourself. On these two **commandments** depend all the Law and the Prophets.'*

—Matthew 22:37-40 (ESV) - emphasis & Greek added

*Jesus: 'So now I am giving you a new **commandment**: Love (agapao) each other. Just as I have loved (agapao) you, you should love (agapao) each other. Your (agape) love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.'*

—John 13:34-35 (NLT) - emphasis & Greek added

**Agape** love is radical stuff, and yet, it's the only kind of love that truly \_\_\_\_\_ lives.

**It's impossible, in any consistent way, to love this way without Christ's Spirit living \_\_\_\_\_ through our acceptance of Jesus as our Savior and Lord.**

**We see an incredible picture of this kind of love in a passage often quoted in wedding ceremonies: \_\_\_\_\_.**

*...But now I want to lay out a far better way for you.*

—1 Corinthians 12:31 (NLT)

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

—1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (ESV)

**In these first three verses, Paul says even if we can do all kinds of amazing, even seemingly good things, "but have not love," we're nothing more than noise, and our gifts gain**

us \_\_\_\_ in God's eyes.

Paul proceeds to give us very clear \_\_\_\_ of what this kind of love looks like.

*Love is patient and kind...*

—1 Corinthians 13:4a (ESV)

*...love does not envy or boast...*

—1 Corinthians 13:4b (ESV)

*...it is not arrogant or rude....*

—1 Corinthians 13:4c-5a (ESV)

*...It does not insist on its own way...*

—1 Corinthians 13:5b (ESV)

*...it is not irritable or resentful;*

—1 Corinthians 13:5c (ESV)

*it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.*

—1 Corinthians 13:6 (ESV)

*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

—1 Corinthians 13:7 (ESV)

*Love never ends....*

—1 Corinthians 13:8a (ESV)

**There will never be an occasion, a situation, a predicament, in which love is the \_\_\_\_ way to act!**

**This doesn't mean there aren't times when "\_\_\_\_ love" is called for, because *agape* love is not an "anything goes" kind of love.**

***Agape* love is \_\_\_\_ hard, and the only way we can live this kind of love with any kind of consistency is with the power of God working in us.**

*...As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For*

*we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*

—1 Corinthians 13:8b-12 (ESV)

**Jesus set up the church as the place for *agape* love to be**

\_\_\_\_\_.

*So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

—1 Corinthians 13:13 (ESV)

**Next Week - What the World Needs Now... is Grace**