

## **REAL LOVE**

*1 John 4:*<sup>7</sup> *Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.* <sup>8</sup> *The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* <sup>9</sup> *God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him.* <sup>10</sup> *Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.* <sup>11</sup> *Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another.*

### **4 Types of Love Throughout History**

- 1. Storge** (affection)- familial love, refers to natural or instinctual affection, such as the love of a parent towards offspring and vice versa. Affection covers an array of loves and can sit alongside other loves and often does. Affection for the people always around us, in the normal day-to-day of life, is the majority of the love we experience, even if we don't label it.
- 2. Phileo** (Friendship) *Philia* is friendship love. "To the Ancients, friendship seemed the happiest and most fully human of all loves." *Philia* occurs from bonding over similar interests. Whereas lovers are both preoccupied with each other, friends are both preoccupied with the same things. Friends, of course, care about one another, but it is similar interests that attract them to one another. "Philia" is the opposite of "phobia," literally meaning that those experiencing *philia* are drawn to one another.
- 3. Eros** (Romance)- Different than friendship, lovers, "are always talking to one another about their love" and "are normally face to face, absorbed in each other". The danger in romantic love is to follow blindly after a feeling of passion. If we celebrate the passion of romance as love, we will think its absence means such love has died. Certainly, true love is not so fickle.
- 4. Agape** (Sacrificial love)- Agape isn't born just out of emotions, feelings, familiarity, or attraction, but from the will and as a choice. Agape requires faithfulness, commitment, and sacrifice without expecting anything in return.

### **What do we learn about Real Love from 1 John 4:7-11?**

#### **1. The true measure of your spirituality is loving God and loving others.**

*<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.* <sup>8</sup> *The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* 1 John 4:7-8 CSB

*... For the person who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.* 1 John 4:20

## **2. The goal of agape love is always to seek the good of the other person**

<sup>9</sup> *God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 1 John 4:9*

*"Love...is not self-seeking" 1 Corinthians 13:4-5*

## **3. The evidence of agape love is action, not words.**

<sup>9</sup> *God's love was revealed among us in this way: **God sent** his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 1 John 4:9*

*"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18*

## **4. The extent of agape love is sacrifice**

<sup>10</sup> *Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning **sacrifice** for our sins. 1 John 4:10*

## **5. The source of agape love is God**

<sup>11</sup> *Dear friends, if God loved **us in this way**, we also must love one another. 1 John 4:11*