



## CALVARY CHAPEL

### Love from Above: The Most Excellent Way

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*1 Corinthians 12:12,27* Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. (...) Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

- 1. Eros- Romantic love
- 2. Philia- Brotherly love
- 3. Storge- Family love
- 4. **Agape- Unconditional love of God**
- **Agape love:** The unconditional selfless love of God

*1 Corinthians 13:1-3* If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. *2* If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. *3* If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

- Love from above: The love God has a matchless value.

*John 5:16* So, because Jesus was doing these things (miracles) on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him.

*John 5:39-40,42* You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, **40** yet you refuse to come to me to have life..., **42** but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.

- Tim Keller: "We tend to draw conservative, buttoned-down, moralistic people. The licentious and liberated or the broken and marginal avoid church. That can only mean one thing. If the preaching of our ministers and the practice of our parishioners do not have the same effect on people that Jesus had, then we must not be declaring the same message that Jesus did."

- **How does love grow cold?**

- Unrepented sin/disobedience: (Isa. 59:2, John 15)
- Neglecting Spiritual Health: (Rev. 2:4-5)
- Worldly Distractions: (1 John 2:15-16)

- Lack of Community: (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Insincere Worship: (Rev. 4:11)

*1 Thessalonians 4:9* Now about your love for one another (Philia) we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love (Agape) each other.

*1 John 4:7-16* Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11** Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. **13** This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. **16** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

- God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

*1 Corinthians 13:4-7* Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

- God is the definer of love.

*Galatians 5:22-23* But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control.

*John 13:34-35* "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

*John 14:15* If you love me, you will keep my commands.

- A **disciple** is someone who knows and follows Jesus, is becoming like Jesus, is doing the things Jesus did, and is helping others do the same.
- **Satan's goal:** To oppose God and His purposes, deceive humanity, and lead people away from salvation in Jesus and the truth of Gods Word. (Jhn. 8, Rev. 12, Matt. 4, 1 Thess. 2, Eph. 6.)

*1 John 2:15-16* Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. **16** For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

*Romans 3:23* For all have sinned and all fall short of the glory of God.

*Romans 6:23* For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Romans 10:13 ...for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

*Psalms 7:11 (NLT) God is an honest judge. He is angry with the wicked (sinner) every day.*

*Romans 5:8 But God demonstrated (love is a verb) his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*2 Peter 3:9 He [God] is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

*Romans 2:4 (NLT) Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you [repent] from your sin?*

*Matthew 5:43-44 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*

*Romans 5:8-10 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

*1 Corinthians 13:8-12 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

- Love from above is victorious and enduring

*1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.*

*Romans 8:38-39 (NLT) And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- Call **321.574.6970** if you have chosen to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.