

## The Most Excellent Way of Love

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• Agape love is a selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional love that seeks the very best for another person.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

*Romans 5:8* But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

• Agape love is more concerned about what is best for us than how we necessarily feel in the moment.

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.

• God has given spiritual gifts as tools to be used in love for the benefit of His church.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 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.

• A good question to ask ourselves is this: "What if Jesus loved me the way I love others?"

1 Corinthians 13:6-13 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 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. 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

• Key 1: Spend time with God daily to know Him and lovingly submit to His Lordship.

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled,

ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

- As we spend time with Jesus and His followers, we will begin to look, speak, and act more like Him.
- Key 2: Regularly examine ourselves against the word of God.
- Key 3: Go back and repeat Step 1.
- Call **321.574.6970** if you have chosen to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. NLT = New Living Translation.