

Great Words of the Gospel Series

Topic: Love - “God’s love”

Key Texts: *Mark 12: 28, 30-31; 1 Cor. 13: 4-8*

Love is a term that has been used and abused or misused by many.

People have tried to define and redefine this word called LOVE.

The Bible encourages us to live a life of love.

Eph. 5:2 – *Live a life of love. Love others just as Christ loved us.*

1 Cor. 16:14 – *Do everything in love.*

“You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving.”

True love will always compel you to give.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...

True love will always compel you to do something.

HOW DO WE DEFINE LOVE?

In the natural sense...

Love is an emotional attachment. It is a bond that two people share.

***Love** means to be deeply committed and connected to someone or something.*

***True love** is a strong and lasting affection between spouses or lovers who are in a rewarding, passionate and fulfilling relationship.*

To love someone is to see a miracle invisible to others.

Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own because...

Love is, above all, the gift of oneself.

We live in difficult and dangerous times.

2 Tim. 3:1-5

But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come.

When people become lovers of themselves... lovers of money... without love of good... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

Because of the strong influence of the outside world and the times we live in, our mammoth task is to learn “**to love God’s way**”.

How does human love differ from God's love?

4 Kinds of love...

Phileo – *Friendship love*

Astorge – *Protective or parental love*

Eros – *Romantic love*

Agape – *God's love*

These 3 expressions of human love (friendship, parental, romantic kind of love), **without the agape love**, will always lead to chaos because all these 3 are focused on benefitting oneself.

All human forms of love relationship should spring from and have their source and foundation on God's love.

Read *Mark 12:28, 30-31.*

When God's love ("the **agape**" love) rules and reigns within our heart and captivates our soul (our mind, emotion, will) and has become the prime mover and source of our strength, we can easily love others even the unlovable.

What does the Bible say about God's love?

Read *1 Jn 4:10; 1 John 3:16a; Jn 15:13; 1 Jn 4:8*

The **agape** kind of love (the God-kind of love) is pure and sacred and selfless.

It is the kind of love that is not based on comfort and convenience but on **commitment** and **sacrifice**.

It is the kind of love that is sacrificial that will **always benefit others at his or her own expense**.

1 Cor. 13: 4-8 – *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love (God's love – “Agape love”) never fails.*

How did God show His love to us?

1 John 4:9-10

⁹ *In this the love of God... that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*

¹⁰ *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

If there is a place in history where this kind of love was seen in its fullness, it was when Christ was nailed on the cross.

Jesus on the cross expressed the ultimate definition of Agape – the God-kind of love.

While on the cross, He was patient, He was kind. He was not rude, He was not angry, He was forgiving – *forgive them for they know not what they are doing.*

While on that cross He persevered and put His hope and trust in God alone.

It was the love of God that sustained Him on that cross.

1 Cor. 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

God's love brought Him to greatness.

Read Philippians 2: 8-11.

How do we respond to His love?

1 John 3:16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.