

February 17, 2019

## The Greatest Gift is Love

This is the **most important** series we have ever done at Life Song Church. Together, through the blood of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, we will walk in agape love, seeing people through the eyes of Jesus Christ.

**1 Cor 13:1-3** *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.*

**1 Cor 13:13** *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the **greatest of these is love.***

**Love Strong's #26, agape** (ag-ah-pay); an undefeatable and unconquerable goodwill that always seeks the highest good of another person no matter what he or she does. An **unconditional love** that gives of itself without asking anything in return. This is a love of **choice and will, not by feelings, chance and emotions**. It is a commitment. This is the love God has for us and has been poured in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. A person cannot fall in and out of *agape* love, as he can with *phileo*. *Agape* love is the opposite of selfishness because it is a sacrificial love causing one to die to self.

**Love Strong's #5386, phileo** (fill-eh-oh); to be fond of, care for affectionately, cherish, and take pleasure in. *Phileo* is a **feeling tied to our emotions**. Most people think *phileo* is true love and therefore fall in and out of love. One day you love someone, the next day you don't.

**Love Strong's #5360 philadelphia**; fraternal affection; brotherly love. A general goodwill towards mankind.

### The Attributes of Agape Love: **1 Cor 13:4-8**

**Suffers long**; patience with imperfect people. EGR people = extra grace required

**Kind**; doing nice things for people; hold the door, smile, let people go in front of you. RAK; Random Acts of Kindness.

**Does not envy**; happy for other people when they get ahead and are blessed. Being non-possessive of relationships.

**Does not parade itself**; a self-effacing quality willing to look bad in order to lift someone up.

**Not puffed up**; not being arrogant and conceited believing you have all of the answers.

**Does not behave rudely**; not being offensive and mean but always courteous and polite.

**Does not seek its own**; insisting one's own rights and being selfish. "It's my way or the highway!"

**Is not provoked**; it is not touchy, irritable or hostile, like "walking on glass" but graceful under pressure.

**Thinks no evil**; It does not keep an account of wrongs done to it, but erases resentments.

**Does not rejoice in iniquity**; having no satisfaction in the shortcomings or moral failure of others. Not spreading evil reports justifying by "I tell it like it is" no we tell it like we see it, because we all see through the eyes of our heart.

**Rejoices in the truth**; aggressively advertising the good. Seeing and embracing how God sees us through the blood.

**Bears all things**; defending and holding other people up, has the attitude, "I've got your back!"

**Believes all things**; believing the best in others and crediting them with good.

**Hopes all things**; never giving up on people but affirming their future believing God's love will change their heart.

**Endures all things**; persevering and remaining loyal to the end.

**Never fails**; love is eternal and impacts eternity. It is not temporal, but will remain forever. That is why it is a choice and not a feeling. Once we accept the love of God, we are His forever! He will never leave us or forsake us. Agape never fails.

**Gal 5:22-25** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love...* knowing what love is, we could stop right here without stipulating the 8 other characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit. That sums it up; the fruit of the Spirit is **love**. But let's continue...*joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.* The opposite of agape love is selfishness and walking in the flesh.

**Rom 5:3-5** *And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* God instituted relationships (especially marriage) **not** for our happiness, but for our holiness to develop the character of Christ in us through tribulation and perseverance.

**Fresh Oil at the altar**; the anointing for the message preached, being received only by faith, humility and obedience.

**Life Song Church: Teaching Answers for Life!**