

Love in the New Testament

by Don Martin

1 John 3:1-3 "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure"

Words Used In 1st Century Koine Greek Literature Defined

Eros - Sexual love. Not used in New Testament.

Stergein - Familial love. Not used in the New Testament.

Phileo - More nearly represents tender affection.

* This word is never used in a command to love

God.

* This love is not given without expectation.

* This love usually expects the same coming back in return.

I. Examples Of Phileo.

A. Love of **money** - philoguriz

1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows"

B. Love of **children** - philoteknos.

Titus 2:4 "that they admonish the young women to love their husbands. to love their children"

C. Love of **husband** - philandros.

Hebrews 13:1 "Let brotherly love continue"

D. Love of **brethren** - philadelphia.

Titus 3:4 "But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared"

E. Love of **mankind** - philanthropia.

Agapao-Largely translated as "love."

* Second most common translation in KJV is

"charity" (esp. 1 Cor. 13).

* This kind of love is **unnatural to man**.

* Is a love that **must be learned** and is **commanded**.

* It is a love given **without expectation** (John 3:16)

* It denotes and demands a **total commitment**.

* There are **no conditions nor strings** attached.

* Keeping the commandments **are not conditions**

of love, but **expressions of it**.

II. Examples Of Agapao.

A. The love of God toward us.

1. God so loved the world.

a. Sent His Son.

b. He died for sinners.

2. The reason given why He sent His son.

3. Because He loves us.

B. Loving God and Jesus.

1. "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15).

2. As stated before, our obedience to God's commands through His Son is not love itself, but expressions of love (See also 1 John 2:3-5).

C. Loving enemies.

1. Love & bless them (See also Luke 6:27 & Matt. 22:39).

2. Who is my neighbour? Answer: Luke 10:36-37.

D. Loving brethren.

1. "A new commandment I give to you" (See 1 John 4:20 & 1 Peter 1:22).

2. "Love one another fervently" - without hypocrisy, sincere, not fake.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"

1 John 4:9-10 "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 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."

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

John 3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved"

1 John 3:1 "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him"

1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome"

John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Matthew 5:43-47 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?"

Luke 10:36-37 "So which of these three do you think was neighbour to him who fell among the thieves?" 37 And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise"

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another"

1 Peter 1:22 "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart"