

## Valentine's Day | the Third Love

**I. Some Technical Observations Concerning *Agapē***

- It's the noblest word for love in the Greek language.
- It's not kindled by the merit or worth of its object, which means this is the first love that allows us to love unlovable people.
- It's a choice. It's not a natural instinct, it isn't inadvertently pulled out of us. It's a conscious decision.
- This love keeps on loving even when the loved one is unresponsive, unkind, unloveable, and unworthy. It is truly considered an unconditional love.
- However, it too may be used in a fleshly, selfish way.
  - John 3:19; II Timothy 4:10; II Peter 2:15; I John 2:15; Matthew 24:12; Revelation 2:4

**II. The Origin of True Love**

- True Love originates with God.
- **God can command us to love because of the nature of love.**
- **God can command us to love because He is love.**
- **God can command us to love because He's powerful.**
- **God can command us to love because we're forgiven . . . or at least, we should be.**

**III. The Recipients of True Love**

- **We're commanded to love God.**
- **We're commanded to love our neighbor**
  - Ephesians 5:25; 5:28; 5:33; Colossians 3:19; I Peter 2:17; II John 1:5
- **We're commanded to love our enemy.**

**IV. The Characteristics of True Love**

- **True Love flows from, is empowered by, and must return to God.**
  - Romans 5:5b; II Corinthians 5:14; I Thessalonians 4:9b; I John 4:19
  - Unlike *storgē* and *phileō*, this love is not accessible to unbelievers.
- **True Love must permeate all we do.**
  - I Corinthians 16:14
- **True Love is the proof of genuine faith in God.**
  - John 13:35; Galatians 5:22
- **True Love is evidenced by obedience.**
  - John 14:15, 21-24; John 15:10; Romans 13:8, 10; I John 2:5, 3:18; II John 1:6
- **True Love does the right thing even when it's hard.**
  - Hebrews 12:6
- **The greatest proof of True Love is that a person would sacrifice his/her life for his/her friends.**
  - John 15:13; Romans 5:8
- **True Love has the best interest of others as its highest priority.**
  - Romans 12:10, 14:15
- **True Love never stops growing.**
  - Philippians 1:9

## V. The Most Significant Reality of True Love

- True Love makes life work.
- Verse one tells us, *"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."*
  - This verse teaches that communication doesn't work without True Love.
  - You and your family really need to listen to episode 38. It's called The Communication House, and it outlines God's plan for all family talk.
  - Love is an integral part of The Communication House. In fact, it's so important that pleasing God with our communication is impossible without True Love.
- Now verse two says, *"And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."*
  - Here we learn that even religion doesn't work without True Love.
- And verse three tells us, *"If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."*
  - This is interesting because it actually tells us actions that appear to be the most loving things a person could do don't work without True Love.
- So, the big three — my communication, my faith, and my relationships — will all fail if I do not have True Love.
- If you don't learn anything else today, learn this: Life doesn't work without True Love.

## VI. The Way True Love Lives

- **Love is patient.**
- **Love is kind.**
- **Love is humble.**
- **Love is selfless.**
- **Love is holy.**
- **Love is strong.**
- **Love is optimistic.**
- **Love is eternal.**