

The Diversity of the Love of God For Mankind
Let us consider God's love for mankind in four categories:

1. **Salvation Love**- God's giving of Jesus Christ to be crucified, killed, buried, and resurrected from the dead for the sins of mankind; So that whoever believes in the person and work of Jesus Christ may be delivered from the penalty, power, and soon presence of sin unto a new right relationship with God. (John 3:16-18, 1John 2:2)
2. **Selecting Love**- God's choosing us who have believed in the person and work of Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world to be delivered from the penalty, power, and soon presence of sin unto a new right relationship with Him; to be apart of His Family according to His will and good pleasure. (Ephesians 1:3-6, Romans 8:29-30)
3. **Sovereign Love**- God's provision for all (believer, unbeliever, creation) in various ways according to His will and good pleasure. (Luke 6:35, Matthew 6: 25-34)
4. **Submission Love**- God's benefits to those who are in covenant relationship with Him and are consistently choosing to submit to Him through obedience to His commands. (John 15:10, John 14:21)

(Adapted from D.A. Carson's book **The Difficulty of God's Love**)

I. The Salvation Love of God is seen in God's: (Acts 4:8-12)

- A. Person- God the Father sent God the Son(Jesus Christ) who took on a perfect human body to live the perfect life and to die the perfect death to save those who would believe in Him to save them from the penalty, power, and presence of sin unto a new and right relationship with God. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
- B. Propitiation- God has satisfied the penalty of sin for all through crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 John 4:9-10)
- C. Promotion- God has made this salvation available to all nations of the world. (Titus 2:11)
- D. Promise- God has guaranteed to save all who call upon the name of Jesus Christ to save them from their sin unto a new and right relationship with God the Father. (Romans 10:9-11)
- E. Preservation- God has guaranteed to keep all who trust in this salvation secure forever; they can never loose it! (John 10:27-29)

II. The Selecting Love of God is seen in the fact that those whom God has selected to be in His family have been: (John 6:44,65)

- A. Rescued- delivered from consequences of sin and the domain of darkness. (Colossians 1:13)
- B. Redeemed- ransom for sin paid, removal from the curse of the law, release from the bondage of sin. (Ephesians 1:7)
- C. Regenerated- made alive to spiritual life from spiritual death. (Titus 3:5-6)
- D. Reconciled- placed in right standing and right relationship with God. (2Corinthians 5:17-18)
- E. Received- adopted and welcomed into the family of God. (Ephesians 1:5)

III. The Sovereign Love of God is seen in the fact that He is generous to all whether believer or unbeliever by giving them (but not limited to): (Matthew 5:43-45)

- A. Provision- food, clothing, shelter. (Acts 17:24-25)
- B. Pleasure- satisfying one's heart with gladness. (Acts 14:8-17)
- C. Protection- shielded from particular, hurt, harm, and danger. (Psalm 146:9)
- D. Prosperity- having the benefits of this life. (Ecclesiastes 7:14)

IV. The Submission Love of God is seen in that those who are his and are consistently choosing to submit to God through obedience to His commands will experience (but not limited to): (Psalm 103:11-18)

- A. Stability- to have a life of sturdiness as you obey God's commands. (2 Peter 1:1-10)
- B. Solutions- to have insight as to how to handle life issues God's way as you obey His commands. (James 1: 5-8)
- C. Satisfaction – to experience the peace of God and the joy of His presence as you obey His commands. (Philippians 4:6-9)
- D. Success-the ability to be productive according to the ways of God as you obey His commands. (John 15:1-11)

**The First And Greatest Commandment
(John 14:21-23)**

Definition of Love for God: To have a high regard for, a sincere value of, a committed devotion to, a genuine joy in, resulting in the act of the will submitting to the will and directives of God

I. To love God is to obey His commands out of a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere Faith; Is not a burden. (1Timothy 1:5, 1John 5:3)

- A. To obey the commands means to faithfully/ consistently (not perfectly) adhere to and follow the will and directions given by God as a way of life.
- B. To obey the commands is an act of the will that moves into action to do what is instructed by God on faithful/consistent basis (not perfectly) as a way of life.
- C. To obey the commands is not a slavish fear to his directives but a willing submission to the instructions and directions of God as a way of life.

II. If we love God by obeying His commands , it will result in experiencing more of God's love towards us and His presence with us. (Philippians 4:9, John 15:10-11, Psalm 16:11, Ephesians 3:14-19)

- A. As we walk in love for God the Father and God the Son through genuine obedience, we will come to experience deeper dimensions of God's love towards us.
- B. As we walk in love for God the Father and God the Son through genuine obedience, we will come to experience a deeper reality of the presence of Jesus Christ resulting in experiencing more of the Person, character, and goodness of Jesus Christ.
- C. As we walk in love for God the Father and God the Son through genuine obedience, they will make themselves at home in our hearts being the resident masters that direct our attitudes and conduct accordingly as we experience the work of rooting and grounding us in love by God the Holy Spirit.

III. If we have a genuine love for God it will not be demonstrated by merely talking about God and His Word; It will be revealed through our willing and consistent obedience to God through submission to His Word. (Romans 6:17-18, 1John 2:3-6, 3:1-10, Luke 6:40, 43-49)

- A. Genuine obedience is demonstrated by acceptance of the person and work of Jesus Christ to save us from the penalty of sin, power of sin and soon the presence of sin resulting in becoming a slave to God instead of slave to sin.
- B. Genuine obedience is demonstrated by application of God's command in all aspects of life.
- C. Genuine obedience is demonstrated as we apply God's command to our:
1. Character-to reflect the personality of God on the inside and outside
"That in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth."
Ephesians 4: 21-24
 2. Conduct-to carry yourself in a manner that represents holiness of God and not self-righteousness or self-indulgence
"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lust which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior, because it is written "You shall be Holy for I Am Holy". 1Peter 1:14-16
"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on the things that are on the earth".
Colossians 3:1-2
 3. Conversation- to speak words and to have dialogue that displays that character of God
"Let no wholesome words process from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment so that it will grace to those who hear". Ephesians 4:29
 4. Commitments- devoting yourself to God
"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice,

acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship”. Romans 12:1

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I command you; and lo I am with you always even to the end of the age”. Matthew 28:19-20

5. **Commodities**- enjoy and share generously the resources God has provided you without putting hope in the resources God has provided you.

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy, Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share” 1Timothy 6:17-18

6. **Communion**- stay in consistent fellowship with other believers

“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near”. Hebrews 10:24-25

A Fresh Dimension On An Old Commandment

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

I. The Calling to Agape Love (John 13:34-35)

- A. The word new in the text means a “fresh dimension”.
- B. The “fresh dimension” to the old command was that love is to be given in the sacrificial manner that Jesus gave to the believers.

- C. The selfless service and sacrifice of His life as a ransom for others was altogether new, and consequently was to be the model and standard for which their love for one another was to be measured.¹
- D. In essence, we are called by the power of God to seek the highest of good of others unconditionally, no strings attached.
- E. We are called to respond to the condition and need of others above the attractiveness and personal interest in others.
- F. We are called to have a genuine concern and benevolence towards others.

II. The Considerations of Agape Love

- A. Agape Love is not something we have to work up to give it's something we work out through the power of the Holy Spirit within us. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- B. Agape Love is not a continuum that flows automatically through us; It is developed through practice or derailed through disobedience to God. (1John 2:9-11)
- C. Agape Love is not given according to the character of the receiver but is given according to the character of the giver. (1John 3:11-24)
- D. Agape Love is an unlimited resource from the Nature of God which we can draw from at any time; Therefore we have no excuse not love others with agape love. (1John 4:7)
- E. It is hypocritical to expect agape love from others but not be willing to give agape love to others; We must be willing to give what we ask for. (Luke 6:27-36)
- F. The evidence of our Christianity is revealed by the agape love we demonstrate to others through the power of God. (1John 4:15-17)

III. The Confusion about Agape Love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

- A. Agape love is not merely using your spiritual gifts towards others.
- B. Agape love is not merely giving of your resources to others.
- C. Agape love is not merely sacrificing yourself for others.

¹Jamieson, Robert ; Fausset, A. R. ; Fausset, A. R. ; Brown, David ; Brown, David: *A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments*. Oak Harbor, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997, S. Jn 13:34

- D. All these things can be done for the wrong motives.
- E. Ability, service, and sacrifice without agape love becomes a tool for self promotion and self advancement. (Luke 18:9-14)
- F. Ability, service, and sacrifice without agape love leads to self-denial about who you are and where God is with you. (Luke 18:9-14)

IV. The Clarity of Agape Love:

- A. Agape – love that is based upon the power of God to seek the highest of good of others unconditionally, no strings attached.
- B. Agape love is concerned not with how we feel but how we choose to think and act towards another.
- C. Agape love responds not to the attractiveness of the other person but to the condition and need of the other person.
- D. Agape love’s motivation is not the selfish desire to enjoy the other person but the selfless desire to benefit him.
- E. Essentially, agape love is concerned and benevolent toward others in attitude and action.²

F. **Key Point:** There is no use trying to do church work without love. A doctor, a lawyer, may do good work without love, but God’s work cannot be done without love. Without love, our most extraordinary gifts and highest achievements are ultimately fruitless to the church and before God. Nothing has lasting spiritual value unless it springs from love.³

V. The Characteristics of Agape Love (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

- A. Agape Love is patient- it suffers long or able to put up with people, their issues and the issues they bring into our lives for a long period of time and in the proper way without responding in a hastily sinful response internally and externally.
- B. Agape Love is Kind- to be genuine, sincere and willing in attitude as well as genuine and

² Boyer *For A World Like Ours*.

³ Alexander Strauch, *A Christian Leader's guide to Leading with Love* (Littleton, Colo.: Lewis & Roth Publishers, 2006), pp. 8, 16.

sincere in the actions of ministering good and showing compassion towards others unconditionally for the Glory of God and the blessing of others without looking for anything in return to self from others.

- C. Agape Love is Not Jealous- There is not a demeanor of dissatisfaction, rivalry, or dislike towards others due to the fact or thought that they are or seem to be, ahead of you, above you, superior to you, or have something you treasure at a level above you. This Love is happy for others in their advancements ahead of you, achievements superior to you, accomplishments above you or acquisitions of things you treasure but do not have or do not have at the level of that person.
- D. Agape Love does not brag- it does not promote itself, it seeks to promote and praise God and others above self.
- E. Agape Love is not arrogant- does not think of self as more important than others, better than others, or the creator and sustainer of all his own abilities, accomplishments, knowledge, blessings, liberties, benefits or experiences. Love has a right view of self according to his position before God and his position before man with a submissive and servant heart towards God and man as empowered and commanded by God to do so.
- F. Agape Love does not act unbecomingly- it is not rude, rash, impolite, indecent, insensitive, inconsiderate, disrespectful or dishonorable in words, behavior, or actions towards others; Love is considerate, courteous, respectable, right, decent, delicate, sensitive or sympathetic in words, behavior, or actions towards others for the glory of God and the benefit of others.
- G. Agape Love does not seek its' own- it does not live to please self. Love lives to please God thereby, seeking the greatest good of others for God's glory and for other people's utmost welfare.
- H. Agape Love is not provoked – it is not irritated, not easily annoyed, not easily upset, or quit to have a fit in difficult situations with people or in difficult situations in life overall. Love is peaceful in disposition, calm or gentle, in difficult situations with people or in difficult situations in life overall.
- I. Agape Love does not take into account a wrong suffered – it does not keep a list in one's mind with the intent to get back at the person for the sinful, troublesome, painful, or disappointing activities a person has done against them; Love has a mindset of compassion in relation to the one who has wronged him intentionally, unintentionally, actually or imagined.⁴ Love is willing and ready to forgive and forgiving according to God's design.

⁴ Rich Thomson, *The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders: How the Word of God Is Sufficient, a Distinctly Christian Approach* (Alief, Tex.: Biblical Counseling Ministries, 2004), pp. 241.

- J. Agape Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth-It does not take joy in, take pleasure in, or find satisfaction in evil or unrighteousness of any kind but it takes joy in, takes pleasure in, or finds satisfaction in right living practiced by others and the triumphs of others in right living practiced.⁵
- K. Agape Love bears all things-does not give way to the temptation to respond in sin to the pressure put on them by others via their sinful attitudes, strange or unusual ways, or personal preferences, but seeks to do what is right by them or to them according to the need of the moment on a consistent basis.
- L. Agape Love believes all things- It seeks to understand people in the best possible light without ignoring or disregarding their proven character flaws and sin issues; Love stays away from developing a suspicious, cynical, doubtful, skeptical, fault-finding, judgmental, or hypercritical pattern of thinking about a person as result of their proven character flaws and sin issues.
- M. Agape Love hopes all things- no matter what the situation, love considers the bright side of things for the person by looking to the grace of God in relation to the person.
- N. Agape Love endures all things- Love continues to do what is right with people and in circumstances even when facing difficulty or hardships.

Evaluate the roles you have in life and identify ways you can be open and loving within that role to others.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

The Various Roles I have in Life	Loving Thoughts I should have towards others in this role	Loving Words I should have towards others in this role	Loving Service I should do towards others in this role	Any other things I can think of
Husband/Father				

⁵ Wayne A. Mack, *Maximum Impact: Living and Loving for God's Glory* (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R Pub., 2010), pp. 205.

Wife/Mother				
Child				
Brother				
Sister				
Aunt				
Niece				
Nephew				

<i>THE VARIOUS ROLES I HAVE IN LIFE</i>	<i>LOVING THOUGHTS I SHOULD HAVE TOWARDS OTHERS IN THIS ROLE</i>	<i>LOVING WORDS I SHOULD HAVE TOWARDS OTHERS IN THIS ROLE</i>	<i>LOVING SERVICE I SHOULD DO TOWARDS OTHERS IN THIS ROLE</i>	<i>ANY OTHER THINGS I CAN THINK OF</i>
Grandfather				
Grandmother				
Cousin				
Mother-in-law				
Father-in-law				
Son-in-law				
Daughter-in-law				
Friend				

<i>THE VARIOUS ROLES I HAVE IN LIFE</i>	<i>LOVING THOUGHTS I SHOULD HAVE TOWARDS OTHERS IN THIS ROLE</i>	<i>LOVING WORDS I SHOULD HAVE TOWARDS OTHERS IN THIS ROLE</i>	<i>LOVING SERVICE I SHOULD DO TOWARDS OTHERS IN THIS ROLE</i>	<i>ANY OTHER THINGS I CAN THINK OF</i>
Co-worker				
Employer				
Employee				
Enemy				
Neighbor				
Authority figure				
Subordinate				