LOVE

Shawn Jeffries · 2 Peter 1:7

INTRODUCTION

- When Peter used this word love, he's talking about something so much more.
- Agape love is not based upon the response of the other person. It is not based on the other person loving us back.
- Agape love is one directional, it is unconditional.

1 Agape Love Towards God

1 John 4:8; Matthew 22:37; John 14:15

- God's nature is love. God's character is love. God is the source of love.
- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart. And with all your soul and with all your mind.
- We need to love God with every fiber of our being. We need to love God with everything we are.
- If I truly love God, then I'm going to obey God.

2 Agape Love for My Spouse

Ephesians 5:25; Ephesians 5:28–29

- Husbands love your wives … Jesus Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her.
- I have to love my bride in the same way that Jesus loves his bride, which is the church.
- Agape love for my wife or my spouse involves sacrifice.
- Instead, I need to bury the hatchet and move on. I need to truly forgive.

3 If I Really Love My Children

Ephesians 6:1–4

- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- Fathers, … Do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and the instruction of the Lord.
- Loving my children involves not just providing for their physical needs, but I also got to provide for their spiritual needs.
- I'm going to let them know that what they're doing is wrong. That's bad behavior, and there are consequences for bad behavior.

4 Agape Love for Brothers and Sisters in Christ

John 13:34–35; 1 John 4:7; 1 Corinthians 13

- A new commandment that I give to you that you love one another even as I have loved you.
- By this, all men will know that you're my disciples if you have love for one another.
- If I have real love for my brother or my sister, I will be driven to confront them whenever they're in sin.

- If I love my brother or my sister, I'll sacrifice. I'll sacrifice my time. I'll sacrifice my resources in their times of need.

5 Agape Love for My Neighbor

Matthew 22:39–40; Luke 10:29

- You also gotta love your neighbor how? As yourself.
- Your neighbor is anybody who needs your help.
- Loving my neighbor involves action. It involves doing something.

6 Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5:43–48; Romans 12:17; Romans 5:10

- But I say to you, love your enemies. And pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who's in heaven.
- What Jesus talks about here is no doubt the hardest part of agape love.
- We gotta avoid seeking personal vengeance and do good towards them despite their actions.
- Before we became Christians, we were enemies of God and we didn't deserve his love.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Is there anyone here who needs to respond to the love of God?**

MY NOTES