

GOOD EVENING

THE MOST IMPORTANT BOOK IN THE WORLD!

# ROMANS

**Rom. 6:14**

**THE GLORY OF AGAPE LOVE**

# **AGAPE LOVE**

**Agape Love is:**

**THE LOVE OF GOD DISPLAYED AT THE CROSS OF CHRIST, WHICH  
THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOW OVERFLOWING THE BELIEVER'S HEART  
WITH. (Rom. 5:5)**

**We participate in Agape Love by faith, sharing Christ and His Riches  
with others not for our own advancement but for theirs.**

**Put another way:**

**We participate in Agape Love in faith when we respond to the  
everyday occurrences of life not by looking at the ourselves but by  
looking at Christ.**

**Anything participated in based of Agape Love is always right with  
God because He is the One working in and through us to do them.  
Therefore, it will last for all time and eternity (Gal. 2:20)**

# AGAPE LOVE

## Why Agape Love?

1. Agape is the Greek word for Pauline Grace Love.

6. Rom. 5:8 in the original Greek, the way God and Paul wrote it:

Sunistemi de autos AGAPE eis eime Theos ...

But commends, His Own, Love to us God ...

Or,

(de) But (Theos) God (sunistemi) commends (autos) His  
(AGAPE) LOVE (eis) to (autos) us.

# **AGAPE LOVE**

**In the Greek there are many different words for different types of love, which are translated into the English by one word: Love.**

**Agape (Christian LOVE), Eros (sexual LOVE), philia (brotherly LOVE), storge (familial LOVE), philautia (self-LOVE), xenia (friendship LOVE)**

**So in order to prevent confusion as to which kind of love we are talking about, we attach God's Greek word Agape to man's translation word LOVE: i.e., Agape Love.**

**Agape was a little used word in secular Greek. So God took that little used word and infused it with divine meaning based on the Love of God at the Cross of Christ that comes from Pauline Grace.**

# **AGAPE LOVE**

**The goal set before every believer is that everything they participate in be based on Agape Love. (1 Cor. 16:14)**

**a. When we were a member of the old humanity serving the selfish lusts of our evil hearts under the power of sin, death permeated into every detail of our bodily existence. (Rom. 1:18-32)**

**b. Now as member of a new humanity in Christ, however, we can now serve God selflessly in Agape Love that overflows our hearts under the power of righteousness, whereby Christ's life permeates into every detail of our bodily existence. (Rom. 6:1-13)  
When this happens, this is what theologians call "sanctification."**

**a. Agape Love takes the dusty theological concept of "sanctification," blows the dust off its cover and brings it to life in our bodily existence, sanctifying it, making it holy, one moment at a time.**

**b. This is what Paul calls redeeming the time. (Eph. 5:2, 14-17; Rom. 13:10-14)**

# AGAPE LOVE

## The Pattern of Agape Love:

- a. **Although we have real or perceived rights ...**
- b. **We don't look at self and demand and exercise those rights for ourselves if it means tearing down others...**
- c. **But instead, we look at Christ and His Cross, give up those rights to build up others.**

# AGAPE LOVE

**Example: Agape Love-Filled Trip To The Grocery Store**

**Cut off in traffic:**

**Response 1, looking at self: I have driving rights according to the rules of the road, and I am going to demand them by getting angry, honking the horn and gesturing, wishing destruction on the other.**

**THIS IS NOT AGAPE LOVE!**

**Response 2, looking at Christ: I have driving rights but I am not going to demand them. Rather, looking at the Christ who died for me while I was His enemy, I am going to wave, smile and wish the person well.**

**THIS IS AGAPE LOVE!**

**God sanctified the moment through you!**

# AGAPE LOVE

## The Closest Parking Spot:

**Response 1, looking at self: I have a right to park as close to the door as possible, so I am going to exercise that right by rushing ahead and rudely taking the spot for myself not caring about others.**

**THIS IS NOT AGAPE LOVE!**

**Response 2 looking at Christ: I have a right to park close, but I am not going to exercise it. Rather, looking at Christ and His Cross, where the only thing He rushed ahead to do is to serve others, I will wave the other person into the spot.**

**THIS IS AGAPE LOVE!**

**God sanctified the moment through you!**

# AGAPE LOVE

## Waiting in Check-out Line:

**Response 1, looking at self: I have the right to be checked out quickly, and I am going to demand that right by shoving my cart to the front of the line without considering others.**

**THIS IS NOT AGAPE LOVE!**

**Response 2, looking at Christ: I have the right to be checked out quickly, but I am not going to demand that right. Rather, looking at Christ and remembering that Gal. 5:22 says the fruit of the spirit is longsuffering meekness, I will forgo my rights and wait patiently, maybe using the time to share Christ with the person in front of me.**

**THIS IS AGAPE LOVE!**

**God sanctified the moment through you!**

# AGAPE LOVE

**When we view things in this way, problems and difficulties are no longer things to be avoided at all costs, leading to fear and despair. They to be embraced as opportunities to share Christ and His riches to others at all costs.**

- a. Contrary to what we think naturally, this doesn't happen most powerfully when things are going our way.**
- b. Rather, paradoxically, this happens most powerfully when things aren't going our way! (2 Cor. 12:9-10)**

# AGAPE LOVE

**What role does rightly-dividing play?**

- a. Rightly-dividing is our tool not our master. It is used to get God's Word for today out of the Bible as a whole.**
- b. This is only important because Agape Love cascades out of the pool of God's truth for today. Increasing knowledge of what God is doing today should lead to an increasing flow of Agape Love to be used in an increasing amount of opportunities to dispense Christ's riches to others. (Phil. 1:8-11)**

# AGAPE LOVE

**The key to Christian living is not how much doctrine you have, but what you do with the doctrine you have.**

- a. A person who knows nothing about the mechanics of right division but believes truths from a rightly divided Bible—like Christ died for my sins and rose again, and God has forgiven my sins, and in appreciation for those blessings shares the Gospel and forgives the sins of others based on this knowledge is pleasing to God ...**
- b. Someone who can explain every nuance of rightly-dividing but uses the knowledge it reveals to be puffed up, belittling others to make something of himself, is not pleasing to God.**
- c. Of course, God’s plan is for us to have both! The full -knowledge of what He is doing today through Paul’s distinct apostleship and use it super-abundantly to build up others in the Christ.**

# AGAPE LOVE

**Paul couldn't say Agape Love is just sharing Christ and His riches with others because:**

- a. You could share Christ for your own selfish purposes like the contenders in Phil. 1:15-18. Paul rejoiced that Christ was being preached, but he didn't rejoice in the way they preached Him, which was not pleasing to God.**
- b. Much better it was for Paul and his co-workers, who not only preached Christ but preached Him out of Agape Love, which is always pleasing to God.**

## **One final example:**

**Take our grocery store example and the long line developing at the cashier who is having problems. There are 2 believers waiting patiently:**

- a. You have Believer #1 who looks at himself, thinks patience is a virtue that would enhance his self-esteem and, therefore, he waits patiently...**
- b. And you have Believer #2 who looks to Christ not herself and, remembering that patience is a fruit of the spirit from Gal. 5:22, and that Christ was very patient when He went to the Cross for her, she waits patiently ...**
- c. Both people are “doing” the same thing, but which one is based on Agape Love and is, therefore, pleasing to God? It is the Believer #2, is operating on basis of Agape Love. God is working in and through her to produce the fruits of righteousness.**
- d. God doesn't judge based on what we are “doing,” but on where that “doing” came from. Did it come from the lusts of a selfish heart? Or did it come from the selfless love of Christ overflowing the believers heart?**