

Genuine Agape Love (Pt. 3)

Rom. 12:9-10; 1 Cor. 13

The Microscope of Love

1. Now, the Romans needed to get their instruction from the Holy Spirit from Paul's Scriptures, and what they find there is that everything begins with GENUINE (AGAPE) LOVE that Pauline Grace Mystery Truth produces.
 - Genuine Love isn't just one item in the list. It's the heading of the list, its basis, what everything else in the list flows out of.
2. In Rom. 12:9-10, this Genuine (Agape) Love is the source of all other loves for the believer. Paul puts all other kinds of love under the ruling love of Agape Love (v. 9):
 - which is the basis for Storge Love—family/friendly love—KJV: being kindly affectioned one to another and having (v. 10a)
 - and basis for Philadelphia Love—love for the brethren—KJV: brotherly love (v. 10b)
 - And then back to Agape Love—Phil. 2:3-4. in honor prefer other

3. What is this Genuine (Agape) Love:

So far, we have looked at:

- a. The Operating Principle of GENUINE LOVE (Phil. 2:1-8):
- b. The Motivation of GENUINE LOVE (Rom. 5:1-11)
- c. The Extravagance of GENUINE LOVE (Eph. 2:1-10)
- d. The Microscope of GENUINE LOVE (1 Cor. 13)

6. 1 Cor. 12:31-13:13: The Microscope of Genuine Love

- a. Genuine Love is the most excellent way (12:31).
- b. Love produces things of eternal value.
It is the context for all service (1 Cor. 16:14).
- c. Without Love service is just clanging gongs, loud in the moment but results in nothing and nothing is gained. The key to love is not sacrifice for self for selfish reasons. Rather it is Self-sacrifice motivated by the Cross of Christ for the benefit of others selflessly. Love alone is the path to Christian “being” (13:1-3)—sweet savor unto the Lord.
- d. Love is a choice in the messy world of relationships: A movement toward love or toward hate. It is reconciliation offered (that’s the believer’s responsibility) but cannot be forced to be received (that’s the other’s responsibility).

The Corinthians: THE NON-LOVE WORST WAY

Wronged many within the assembly, such as, lawsuits and poor at dinners (1 Cor. 6:8; 11:21-22).

Envy and boasting led to divisions as did not operating in God's truth for today—Pauline Grace Mystery Truth (1 Cor. 1-3).

Were puffed up and proud misusing the things God gave them to the detriment of others (1 Cor. 4:6, 18-19; 5:2; 8:1)

Some were unseemly/rude (1 Cor. 11:2-16), wronging others at the Lord's Supper (11:17-22), disorder in worship (14:26-33).

Self-satisfied in eating foods offered to idols (8:9; 10:23-24), even to detriment of the weaker brother.

Easily angered going to court against the brethren (6:1-11).

They had a lengthy list of wrong doing that would need to be set aside (6:8; 7:5; 8:11).

Some were committing sexual immorality and others were not dealing with it (5:1).

Positives of Love: What Characterized Christ Phil. 2:5-8; 2 Cor. 5:18-21	Negatives of Love: What Didn't Characterize Christ
Love is rich in patient/longsuffering (Rom. 2:4; 9:22, 28; 2 Pet. 3:15).	Love does not envy (trying to get things that belong to others) and is not jealous (keeping what belongs to us at any cost).
Love is rich in kindness (Eph. 2:7)	Love does not brag and boast against others: What do you have that you didn't freely receive? (1 Cor. 4:7)
Love keeps on rejoicing/delighting in THE Truth— Pauline Grace Mystery Truth.	Love is not proud/arrogant, putting down others— It is just God working in and thru you (Eph. 2:9).
With that Truth, Love bears up against all things.	Love does not behave rudely, disgracing others
With that Truth, Love believes all things.	Love does not seek her own without regard for others (1 Cor. 10:24, 33).
With that Truth, Love hopes all things.	Love is not easily provoked angered by others
With that Truth, Love endures all things.	Love thinks no evil, keeping a record of other's wrongs.
Love lasts forever. When everything else ceases, love will still be there.	Love does not rejoice/delight in iniquity with others (Rom. 1:32)

In sum (1 Cor. 13:4-7): Love flows out of the Riches of God's Longsuffering Kindness and is never, therefore:

- a. selfish—boasting and proud, seeking its own things.
- b. Evil—unseemly, easily provoked to anger, think evil and rejoices in wrong-doing.

Rejoicing in the Truth, Love bears, believes, hopes and endures all things.

THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY OF AGAPE LOVE

LOVE EXPRESSING ITSELF IN FAITH AND HOPE (13:7); Gal. 5:5-6, 5:22-23; 1 Thess. 1:1-10; Rom. 12:9-21)

LOVE is supreme (1 Cor. 13:7-13). It is limitless and indestructible (v. 7-8)

The Most Excellent Way: under the motivation of the Love of God at the Cross of Christ where God was reconciling the world of enemy sinners to Himself, not keeping a record of their wrongs to use against them. Those enemy sinners who have received this reconciliation, now have the great privilege of also participating in taking the message of reconciliation out to the whole world (2 Cor. 5:14, 19).

GNOSIS—PARTIAL KNOWLEDGE

Used 23 times in Paul's Epistles.
20 times in the Transition Period
Epistles (Rom. Thru Gal., 1 and 2
Thess.)

EPI-GNOSIS—FULL and Complete- KNOWLEDGE

Used 15 times in Paul's Epistles, all
but 3 (which refer to human
knowledge) refer to God's Truth for
today and are found in the Later
Prison Epistles.

Eph. 1:17; 4:13; Phil. 1:9; Col. 1:9,
10; 2:2; 3:10; Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:25;
3:7; Titus 1:1; Phm. 6.

By the time you go from the Transition Period and into the Prison Epistle Period, you go from partial knowledge to full knowledge, and they could then look into the glass of God's Word and see clearly.