

There is Hope Radio
1-26-25-Transcript
What is Love, Part One
PreacherRichD

The following broadcast is sponsored by Standing in the Gap. Our focus is intercessory prayer for individuals, the community of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, and America. Check us out on the web at standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org. That's standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org. Welcome to There is Hope. Any advice or counsel given is provided for informational purposes only. Your host for There is Hope, Richard Dover.

Since Valentine's Day is coming up in the next few weeks, I thought what I would do, is take the next couple of weeks to broadcast previous sermons that I did in a series I titled Love.

Today we're going to be talking about What Love Is. Next week we are going to be talking about what Love is Not. Then we're going to be talking about the Love of Christ, the Love of the Father, the passion of God for his people. And then we're going to talk about that we are God's workmanship and that God wants us to be ambassadors for Christ, to be able to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, the love of Christ to others.

So, what we're going to be doing today is talk about love. There's five different words that describe love when you look at the Greek and the New Testament, when it talks about the word love.

So the five words that we're going to be looking at is the words philos, storge, eros, mania and agape. So let's take a look at each of them.

The first one is philos. Philos means friendship love. It's the type of love that friends have. It's like if you think of children and they have their friends at school or their friends in the neighborhood, their friends in church. And there's this friendship that goes on. It's about people that maybe know each other for years and years. And they have this friendship where they care for each other. But it's not a deep love. It's not a love that would be called an agape, God type of love. It's just a love that we've known each other. And because of that, we have a friendship with each other. And again, you would think of children are all happy and having fun and everything. They don't know about each other. They don't know what's going on in each other's life, really. They're just having some time together. That's a philos love.

We want to look at storge. Storge is an affectionate love that slowly develops from friendship based on similarity. Storge is an affectionate love that slowly develops from friendship based on similarity. So storge love is a love that starts out with being a friend. It starts out as just being a friend, knowing somebody. But it becomes an affectionate love that slowly develops from friendship. So, this is a type of love where you know somebody as a friend. Maybe you work with them so you consider them a friend. They're more than an acquaintance. But you start to get to know them. And then after a while, it just seems like there's something developing in that friendship. And what happens is there starts to be an affectionate type of love. It's based on similarity in the sense that we have some common purposes, some common good. Now what we're talking about here is this is not a deep

affectionate love. This is not an eros love where there is sexuality going on. This isn't a love where there's a knitting of hearts that's super strong like an agape love. But this is a love that develops. And I'll give you an example.

I have a friend named Liz. And Liz and I were friends for years. And people thought we were going to get married. But we didn't have any kind of an intimacy between the two of us. And it's that because we had this friendship that was a very close friendship that people could see. And you could say there was an affection in a different way than what normally people would think of. It was an affection that I had a respect and an honor for her. She had a respect and honor for me. And we just liked doing things together. We had some likes, some similarities. And we are very different people. But there are things that we had similarities in. So that would be called a storge love. That's a healthy kind of love that can happen between the opposite sex where it never leads to sex and never leads to an unhealthy intimacy. Storge love.

Another type of love that we want to talk about is the love that we see in the world today all over the place. And that's eros love. That's a sexual love. Now, I want to clarify with you. When we think of eros love, when we think of sexual love, we as Christians normally jump up, down, and say, oh my goodness, that's terrible, that's wrong. This understands something. Sex tied to love and love tied to sex isn't wrong when it's under the guidelines of marriage. God wants a husband and wife to procreate. He created man and woman to procreate. A husband and wife can have a pure sexual love. And so there's nothing wrong with the sexual love. The problem is when it's outside of agape love, when it's outside of storge love, when it's outside of the type of love that God desires for us to have, it becomes sin, it becomes wrong.

For some people everything they do is driven by sex. In their reality, if there's no sex, I don't love you, if you don't have sex with me I do not want you. Do you think that's love? If you don't have sex with me, then I don't love you. That certainly isn't the love, isn't the agape love we're going to be talking about. And so that type of eros love, that sexual love, is all based upon emotions. It's all based upon feelings. It's all based upon hormones. And it has nothing to do truly with love. And so when people are practicing sex outside of marriage, they say, well, I really love this person. No, what you're really saying is you really love having sex with this person. What you're really saying is maybe you have a friendship with this person that's wrapped around the sex. But if you really love somebody, then you'll make a commitment to them. That is agape love. Is it a commitment type of love that God would have us to have.

So there's the phyllos love. That's kind of a friendship love. And then we see the storge love that gets to be more than a friendship. There is some affection there. There's some concern there. You've spent time together and built a relationship. And then there's the eros love, the sexual love. The next kind of love is the word is mania, a mania love. And this is an obsessive love. This is a love that's an obsessive love that's based upon attraction and anxiousness, obsession and destruction. Listen to me, a mania love is kind of like that person who chases and stalks after somebody else and they're obsessed with that person. And they say, I just love them so much. But it isn't, again, an agape type of love, a God type of love, a commitment type of love. The commitment is, I'm willing to chase after you. I'm willing to be obsessed and I'll do anything to get with you. But it is all self-centered. It's all to fill my flesh

up. And what happens is it becomes destructive. And some people will start out with good love. Some people start out with a good friendship. But then it starts to go bad and becomes all self-centered. And a self-centered love can become a mania type of love. And listen, husbands and wives can be in mania love. Where the husband is so obsessed with the wife that to the point that there's a jealousy and that she can't even talk to anybody without the man being suspicious. And he's anxious about, what is she doing? Oh, she's on her phone. Who's she talking to? And that it is obsessed and it's very destructive. It only makes sense that this would be a destructive love.

And so, if we look at each of the loves we've talked about so far, that we see that there's the friendship type of love of just being friends. And then there's the storge love. It might be a closer friendship, an intimate close friendship. Then there's the eros, which is the sexual love. And then we have the mania love, that kind of that crazy love that is very self-centered. But what God wants us to have is agape love.

God wants us to have agape love. What's agape love? Agape love is a self-sacrificing love. It is a love that loves the unlovely. It's a love based upon commitment and not emotions. Listen, again, agape love, that's God's type of love. It's a self-sacrificing love. You will give of yourself to others. You're more concerned about others than you're concerned about yourself. But hear me out. If you don't take care of yourself, you can't love others. If you're not becoming healthy and whole, how can you love somebody in a healthy and whole manner? And so, there's a self-sacrificing love, but it's a love where I have matured in my own life. And so, I have something to love you with.

So, it's a self-sacrificing love. A love that loves the unlovely. It's a love that loves the unlovely. It's a love based upon commitment and not emotions. See, so many people say, oh, I love you, I love you, but there's no commitment whatsoever. It's based upon emotions. And I love you now, but I don't know if I'm going to love you tomorrow. So, I don't want to get married because married means commitment. And I don't want to make commitment. I'll tell you what, this just love each other and we'll love each other until it doesn't work out. But when you say this love each other until it doesn't work out, it's not going to work out sooner or later. Or it's not going to be a close intimate relationship that God wants us to have. And the question is if you love somebody and you're really committed to them, is it based upon emotions or based upon commitment? Let me tell you that if you really love somebody, there will be emotions involved, but if there's no commitment, you don't really love them. You're not steadfast with them. And we need to look at the Bible and how does it define agape love? What is God's love? How do we define it? Well, we have the love chapter.

Everybody knows the love chapter. It's 1 Corinthians chapter 13. 1 Corinthians chapter 13. What we're going to do is we're going to look at verses 4 to 7. Let me read them to you. It says, Love is patient. Love is kind and is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not arrogant. Does not act unbecomingly. It does not seek its own. Is not provoked. Does not take into account a wrong suffered. Does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. What does that sound like? Does that not sound like a sacrificial love? Let's look at some of the words.

It says, Love is patient. That means long-suffering. If you love somebody and you love them with God's love, you're long-suffering in that patience with them.

It says, It's kind.

It's not jealous. You do know that jealousy becomes a problem. When you're really jealous, it's all about you and it's not about that other person.

Love does not brag. It's not arrogant. In other words, Love's not prideful.

Look at me, how much I love you. Is that love? It does not seek its own. Whoops, I missed one.

Does not act unbecomingly. My love for you won't embarrass you. I sometimes embarrass my wife. Oh, well, I got to learn on that one.

It says, Does not act unbecomingly. Does not seek its own.

Is not provoked. Does not take into account a wrong suffered. Agape love has a forgiveness in it.

Does not take into account a wrong suffered. Does not rejoice in unrighteousness. I don't try to find something wrong with you if I love you.

But rejoices with the truth. That means the truth. That means even if you say to me, honey, I have to tell you that when you do this, I don't feel loved and I have to face the truth that what I'm doing doesn't make you feel loved. That's agape love to be able to face that and deal with that.

It bears all things.

Believes all things.

Hopes all things and endures all things. That's the kind of love that God would have us to have. And when we hear that love, we should think of Jesus right off the bat. We should be thinking about who Jesus is and that represents who Christ is. And if you want to know what agape love is, look at Jesus and his love for us. That's why we're going to be looking at the passion of God. Understand the passion of God. We understand the passion of God. We understand the love of the father.

If we understand Jesus love for us we will have a great understanding what love really is about. And let me tell you, we should have that same kind of love. And as we have that agape love and he shared that love with others, they will want to know the God that we know. In first Corinthians 13 13, it says, and now these three things remain faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. It should be obvious that the most important thing is the love of God.

This is your radio host PreacherRichD. Next week, we'll air the second half of what is love. And as we end this broadcast, I also want to mention to you that you can listen to this

podcast and obtain the transcript by going to thereishoperadio.org. That is thereishoperadio.org. And you always can reach me at 1-866-WANT-GOD. 1-866-W-A-N-T-G-O-D. 1-866-WANT-GOD or 1-866-926-8463. 1-866-926-8463. God bless you.

You've been listening to *There is Hope* and any advice or counsel given was provided for informational purposes only. *There is Hope Radio* an outreach of *Standing in the Gap*. The focus of *Standing in the Gap* is intercessory prayer for individuals, the community of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, and America. To learn more about *Standing in the Gap*, to obtain a transcript of today's message and other resources go to standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org, that is standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org and click on *There is Hope*.