

**There is Hope Radio**  
**2-2-25-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](http://standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org). That's [standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org](http://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.

Agape love, how do we define it? Well, we have the love chapters 1st Corinthians 13. 1st Corinthians 13. What we're going to do is we're going to look at verses 4 to 7. 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? When we hear that love, we should think of Jesus.

If you want to know what a God we love is, look at Jesus and His love for us. That's why we're going to be looking at the passion of God. When we understand the passion of God we understand the love of the Father. We understand Jesus' love for us, we'll have a greater 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, when we share that love with others, they will want to know the God that we know.

In 1st 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. That if you have faith, but no love, the verse is saying, that's not enough. If you have hope, but no love, that's not enough. What the verse is saying is we need to have faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. That love is last s, and lasts and lasts. That is an agape love. Guess what? God's love doesn't give out. I make a mistake. I make a bad choice. I sin. I willfully sin as a Christian. We shouldn't willfully sin as a Christian, but I willfully sin as a Christian. And guess what? God still loves me, because love remains. The agape love remains.

Let me tell you though, there's something else about a love, an agape love, and it's an obedient love. Agape love is obedient love.

2 John 1:6 Let's see what it says. It says, *And this is love that we walk according to His commandments*. Wow.

Did you hear that? It says that this is love that we walk according to His commandments. 2 John 1:6. This is written by John. John was what? He was known as the disciple of love. He was known as the one who loved Jesus. And the one who loved Jesus, the one who was known as the one that loved Jesus, he writes and he says, And

this is love that we walk according to His commandments. In other words, if we love somebody, we're going to obey God.

If we love God, we're going to obey God. If we love somebody, we're going to be faithful to them. And so out of it is, do you have an obedient kind of love where you are faithful to that person that you love? Are you faithful to that person you love? Are you faithful to the God of the Bible? Are you faithful to the God who loved you? It says, For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. How much do you love Jesus who died on the cross for us? How much do you love Jesus? How much do you love God? How much do you love others? Are you willing to die for them? Are you willing to give your life for them? Are you willing to give your all for them?

Let's go back and let's look again at 1 Corinthians 13.

Love is patient. Are you willing to be patient? Are you willing to be long-suffering for individuals? Are you willing to "put up with some things"? Are you willing to sacrifice?

It says, Love is kind. Are you kind? Are you gentle? I'm not kind and gentle sometimes. I have to be honest. Kind means to be gentle. Kind means to be caring. And sometimes I come across as not caring at all. And sometimes I don't care at all. But at the same time, we have to find that balance of how do we be kind to somebody who's not kind? But how do we draw the line? We need to seek God to find how we draw the line when we need to draw the line. We're going to see that in a moment here.

Love is not jealous. Don't be jealous because somebody else loves the person that you love. Let me explain that to you. You certainly should be jealous. If I'm married to Carmi and if somebody starts to try to take my wife away from me, I'll be jealous. If somebody tries to somehow woo her, I'll be jealous. This is not talking about that type of jealous. But what if my wife is talking on the phone and she's talking for a half an hour to her best friend? Am I going to be jealous of that? According to what Scripture would say, I should not be jealous of that. Not be jealous that somebody gets some of my wife's time. My wife knows that because I'm a pastor and I work with people with all types of issues, that a ton of people takes my time away from her and she has to learn to not be jealous of that. Because she loves me enough that she wants me to walk in my gifts and callings. At the same time, I need to take into consideration my time with her. So, there's a balance that's there. Love does not act unbecomingly.

Love does not embarrass the person that they love.

Love does not shame the person. Love does not do things to harm the person. It does not seek its own.

Our love is to be a God type of love, which is a humble love. It is a love that is willing to seek after the best of others and not her own.

Love is not provoked. We don't get angry when we're in love. Couples that love each other get angry at times. But what the balance is saying is that we should not be provoked that every time something turns around, we're getting angry with the person

that we love. If we're getting angry all the time with the person we love, we have to say what's going on within our own heart. Does not take into account a wrong suffered. We don't keep a list. You've hurt me this time, this time, this time, this time, and this time, and I haven't hurt you that much, so I'm better than you. That is not love.

Love does not take into account that is wrong.

Love forgives. Love lets go. Praise God that God lets go. God doesn't hold an account. It says if we confess our sins, he cast our sins for as far as the East is from the West. He doesn't remember our sin. If we love somebody, we won't remember what they've done to us. We will let it go. Now, of course, we're human beings. We have no way to not remember. But what I'm talking about is that we don't play the tape. You see, it's one thing when somebody's done something and we can't remember. If somebody's done something, we're not going to forget what they've done. But do we play the tape over and over again? I hope not.

Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness. Love doesn't say it's okay. We love each other, it's okay to have sex outside of marriage. That's not love. Sex outside of marriage is unrighteousness. It's called fornication.

It's called illicit sex. God frowns upon it. He actually says those who continue to fornicate that don't repent will go to hell. You do know that. 1 Corinthians 6. It says those who are a lifestyle, listen to me, a lifestyle of fornication, a lifestyle of homosexuality, a lifestyle of drunkenness. It says they will not inherit the kingdom of God. Listen to me. If you are in love with somebody, you will not walk in ongoing unrighteousness.

Love rejoices in the truth.

And then love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. As we look at the love that the Bible is talking about, we see something with agape love. It's a self-sacrificing love. And I'm not talking about where you become a carpet. You're not supposed to be somebody that people walk all over. That's not love. There is a place where you have to draw the line. But what we're talking about self-sacrificing is that you'll be concerned about the welfare of others. You can't take care of others if you're not taking care of yourself. So, you still take care of yourself, but you're concerned about the welfare of others.

Agape love. It's a self-sacrificing love. A love that loves the unlovely. A love that's based upon commitment, not emotions. So the question I have for you is what type of love do you walk in normally? How are you known? I would hope if you're a follower of Jesus Christ, you're a committed Christian, that you're not known as the erotic love person. I would hope that isn't the case. Are you known as a person that has friendships? Do you have a love to those around you? Do you have that kind of love where you're just a friendly type of person? You know, Christians, we should be friendly. And I'm anti-social to an extent because I'm really withdrawn. Nobody ever believes me, but I can be very withdrawn. And Carmi and I both can be to ourselves. And God has called us to be more of people walking in friendship with others.

Do you have an agape love? Do you have an agape love for the lost? Do you have an agape love for your brothers and sisters in the Lord? We should be walking in an agape love. We should be walking in a love that we love others.

And then my last point is, remember, it's an obedient love. God wants us to have an obedient love towards others. So the question is, do you walk in an agape love? That's the love that God wants us to have, a self-sacrificing love. A love that loves even the unlovely. A love that's based upon a commitment, not emotions. That God wants to have an agape love that we have a passion for others, a concern for others, whomever they may be. That there's something within us that just has this God love in us. Are you willing to suffer for the sake of others? Are you willing to give up a meal to feed a homeless person? Are you willing to sell your house and go into the mission field if God calls you to, because of your love of those in Africa, those in Australia, those in Japan, those in wherever, those in Mexico, those in New York City, wherever God would call you. Are you willing to give up your day? Are you willing to give up what you have? So love is patient. Are you long-suffering? Are you willing to give up? Are you willing to sacrifice? Are you willing to suffer, be patient with? I can tell you that God put that love in me because I was not a loving person. Before I knew Christ, I did not have anything close to agape type of love. But God has given me a heart, a passion for those who are hurting, those who are in struggles and troubles and have needs and situations where they can't seem to get out of and they feel hopeless and helpless. God's given me a love to reach individuals that are in those spots in their life. And my last point would be that agape love is an obedient love. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments.

That agape love is that we will be willing to obey God. We will honor God. We'll honor God's word. We will say, I'll be faithful to his word. That if we really love God, we'll be a faithful to his word. We'll do what God calls us to do.

One of the things he calls us to do is love people. So we'll be faithful to people. As I close, what kind of love do you have? What kind of love do you have?

Heavenly Father, I pray for each person in this room and those who are watching this on TV.

I pray, Father God, that they will be willing and open to receive the love of God in their life. Maybe there's some that have never accepted Christ. They've never received the love of Christ in their life. I pray that even now, they will accept Christ into their life. Even now, they'll make a commitment to Jesus Christ. Say, Jesus, I need your love. I heard about that agape love. I heard about that love, and I want that love in my life. I need that kind of love in my life, God. Jesus, will you love me? Will you come into my life, Jesus? I need you to come into my life. I need you to take control of my life. I need to be controlled by your love because I have not been controlled by any love. I've been controlled by hate. I've been controlled by bitterness and resentments. I need to have the agape love in my life, and I know the only way I can get it is through Jesus Christ. And they have found themselves in sexual sin. I pray for them, Lord God, that they would repent of it. They would cry out to you and say, Lord, will you set me free? I don't want to

have eros love. I don't want to be consumed by sex. I don't want to be consumed by the things of this world.

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