

Love Builds Relationships

Sermon February 16, 2020

Love.

I think that LOVE is the biggest gift God created in us, on that very morning, when He created a human heart. To love and to be loved is the biggest gift, not only amongst humans, but also around animals and the green nature.

A person is HAPPY when he/she is loved. Our pets are happy when they are loved. It has been proved scientifically that the flowers are growing faster if we are talking to them with love when we are watering them. Thousands of poems, songs and movies are about LOVE. Everybody wants to be loved. Everyone seeks LOVE in one way or another.

The Bible, the Word of God, talks about true LOVE. Whether it is love of family, friends, spouse, or the love between God and man, there is a Biblical answer for the question: why love? Love is the fundamental theme of the Bible because GOD IS LOVE. Love is not what God does. GOD IS LOVE.

Let's try to define Love.

Love can be complicated to define. Different languages have different words for different types of love. Love is manifesting differently depending on the relationship between the individuals.

In English, the dictionary definition of love is, “a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person; a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend.”

In 1 Corinthians, there is another definition of love. “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” ().

The Dictionary focuses on what love is, but the Bible explains how love should manifests between you and me.

The Bible talks about four types of love. While English only has one word for love, the Bible in Greek focuses on four.

1. Storgē

This love can be described as empathy, which ties people. All humans have this love.

2. Philíos

The Bible talks about philíos, as brotherly love. It is the great affection between true friends. It is formed between two people who biologically were not connected, but in their spirit they became ONE as true friends. A Biblical example of this friendship was between Jonathan and David. It is a meeting of the minds and one of the most strongest bound.

3. Erōs

This love is of a romantic nature, but it is more than romantic or sexual attraction. Eros manifests as being in love with one's spouse. It is the act of picking a partner and committing to that individual in deep love.

4. Agápē

Agápē is considered the greatest of the four loves. This type of love as charity exists regardless of circumstances and is selfless. The Bible says that this is the highest Christian virtue.

A question for you. Do you think that the Bible talks about romantic love? Did you read any chapters in the Bible when a guy talks about a beautiful woman praising her eyes, lips, her hair, neck, nose, ... and so on to her toes? Yes or No?

Did you read verses when a woman is adoring her lover and craves his whole being? Yes or No?

The Bible talks in a very special way about romantic love. This shows us that romantic love is very important for God. There is an entire book of the Bible dedicated to it in the Song of Solomon. There are also several passages that focus on romantic love.

In the Song of Solomon, there is a dialogue between a man, King Solomon, and a woman, who fall in love. This entire book is dedicated to romantic love, sex, and marriage. The bride declares, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth. For your love is better than wine." (Songs of Solomon 1:2) The groom compliments his bride's beauty.

"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth, for your love is more delightful than wine." 1:2

“My skin is black, yet lovely.” 1:5

“His left arm is under my head, and his right arm embraces me.” 2:6

“My beloved is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies.” 2:16

“All night long on my bed I looked for the one my heart loves; I looked for him.”
3:1

“I found the one my heart loves.” 3:4

“How beautiful you are and how pleasing, my love, with your delights” 7:6.

He said something interesting about her neck: “Your neck is like an ivory tower”, but when he described her nose is quite funny: “Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus.” 7:4

The most famous and most romantic love verses are in chapter 8 verses 6-7: “Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away.”

In Ephesians 5, the Apostle Paul writes about how a husband and wife ought to show appropriate love to one another beyond the romance. Often men and women struggle to show one another affection and love, in part because they show and receive love differently. To husbands, Paul reminds them to, “...love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” (Ephesians 5:25) Wives are reminded to respect their husbands in verse 33 of the same chapter, “...and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” Men, on average, want to be respected, while women, on average desire more affection.

The Bible also talks about Familial Love.

The Bible is full of examples of loving parents. God established the family so that children would grow up experiencing unconditional love. This is how children should learn to love.

Respect is one of the ways that people show love to one another, and this is especially true in the parent-child dynamic. Loving parents should have rules and boundaries to protect their children in the same way God has rules and boundaries for people, His children. Love, discipline, and respect are the foundations for a strong family, where children learn to love others.

The Bible is teaching us to love our neighbour.

How should a believer treat others, their neighbours? The Bible addresses this topic in several key verses and passages: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:29-31

Galatians 5:13-14 “through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’”

The Bible shows that there are no limitations to the brotherly love one can show, through acts of service. Love does not turn against its neighbour, but gives through sacrifice with joy.

James 2:8-9 “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself,’ you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

Love does not show partiality. It is for all and should be shown equally to everyone. If we ignore anybody from love, then we are not showing the same love like Jesus.

Romans 12:9-13 “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection ... Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”

Based on our Saviour Jesus Christ’s teaching, Love is the Greatest Commandment.

GOD IS LOVE! When we, God’s children, demonstrate love, we are acting in accordance with the way God intended us to be. It is conforming to the image of Christ. The one that will last through eternity is love.

“Love never ends.” 1 Corinthians 13:8 One day the faith will be made sight, and the hope of the believer fulfilled, but the love of God shall endure for eternity.

God is love, and His love endures. Since God IS love and shall last forever, then you and I, and all of us have to seek and show that unconditional love towards everybody. All of us were created in the image of God, so we have to be people of love.

In 1 John 4:19, we read: “We love because he first loved us.” Dear beloved, let us love one another with Christ's love. Let’s embrace each other showing that we love unconditionally. May the world see in us God’s immeasurable love. Amen