Mat 105

Love is a thought not an emotion

We will pick it up where we left off last lesson talking about love because we have began to study a scripture in Matthew chapter 10 that clearly tells us love for the Lord comes first over all other love relationships.

As I mentioned without deeper studies you could become confused by what TLJC is telling His followers;

/Mat 10:37 He who **loves** father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who **loves** son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.\

The three categories of love start off with love for the Lord and then love between man & woman and thirdly, love in friendship and family circles.

We touched on one and three, so I will quickly cover right man and right woman…it will not be an in-depth study on marriage that would take about 15 lessons!

I feel the HS is leading me to simply highlight the important points of respect, virtue and integrity that revolve around love within marriage because the love we are looking at in Mat 10:37 is focused on loving the Lord as the priority.

/The two most predominant words used for love in the N.T. - *agapaō & phileō* . Which are often misunderstood and explained simply by being impersonal and personal, which only scratches the surface of the definitions.\

In order to understand the deeper meanings we will look at both today and also touch on the strength in love that when it is properly applied in a Bels life can change the life of that Bel dramatically.

We have already established in Mat 10:37 that God has a personal love relationship with the Bel.

Also noted in several other scriptures as well;

/Jhn 16:27 for the Father Himself **loves** (*phileō*) you, because you have **loved** (*phileō*) Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.\

Turn to John chapter 3 with me.

This is personal and is related in the human realm as a love that family members have for one another…

The root word is FILL-US meaning friendship and someone we associate with or have a personal connection too.

This is where we get the word Philadelphia from… the city of brotherly love.

This points us to intimacy and love in the form of physical relationships.

Here’s two many Bels like to ignore;

/Rev 3:19 ‘Those whom I **love** (*phileō*), I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.

1Cor 16:22 If anyone does not **love** (*phileō*) the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha. \

Both of these scriptures point to intimacy…personal love.

In fact 1Cor 16:22 is the reason many Bels have problems in their lives. They do not have a personal love relationship with the Lord.

Exactly what TLJC warns His Apostles about in Mat 10:37.

ELABORATE

That Aramaic term Maranatha is a strong statement that points to final judgment meaning THE LORD WILL RETURN. Or the Lord has come meaning it will happen, because in essence it already did happen.

/Mat 26:48 Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, “Whomever I **kiss** (*phileō*), He is the one; seize Him.”

*Phileō-* also has the deeper connotations of physical affection wrapped into its meaning. It is not void of thought in fact it is generated from a thought first.\

The physical comes secondary. So Phileo love isn’t emotional nonsense with no thought connected to it.

Look what Jesus is teaching one of the greatest Pharisee’s of His time.

Nicodemus who couldn’t wrap his highly intelligent mind around being born again.

Jhn 3:10 Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?

[Jhn 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/jhn/3/11/s_1000011) “Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony.

[Jhn 3:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/jhn/3/12/s_1000012) “If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

[Jhn 3:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/jhn/3/13/s_1000013) “No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.

Jesus is speaking of Himself of course. Yet another scripture pointing to the deity of Jesus Christ.

[Jhn 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/jhn/3/14/s_1000014)“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

This is an analogy of the coming cross that many of them would finally figure out once TLJC was hung up naked and beaten on Calvary.

In Numbers chapter 21- The nation of Israel had been bitten by the snakes and were facing certain death so God had Moses place that stake in the ground with the image of the fiery serpent on top.

Those who truly believed and mentally clung to that image were saved.

That is why it is so important as to what it means to believe in TLJC. The Amplified Bible uses the terms cling to and rely upon and that is accurate.

/Jhn 3:16 “For God so **loved** (*agapaō*)the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.\

There is what many of us point out as divine love and it is when it is directed in the power of the HS.

It is thought only, it is not based in emotions.

Jhn 3:17 “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Jhn 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

But now notice something because we need to realize agape love is a thought process but it can be a negative thought process as well and we often forget to see it in that light.

/Jhn 3:19 “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men **loved** (*agapaō*) the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.\

Depending on who produces the action of this verb love…. it may or may not be divine…God must be the subject for it to be divine love.

REPEAT

Often times the pastor-teacher forgets to emphasize this and I know I am guilty of that occasionally. It is one reason I am glad that I come across scriptures like Mat 10:37 because it makes me tear into the word love and really look at it and teach it with greater depth.

Turn to Ephesians chapter 5.

/ *agapaō –* is a thought and a process of nurturing that thought over time. In the flesh this would turn into affection because the flesh always has a motivation that couples itself with emotion at some point. In the new nature (filled H.S.) *agapaō* reflects the mind of Christ and has no dependence or power within emotion.\

The Unbel can nurture or develop a love thought which could be agape love but it is not divine love.

There is a huge difference between a human love thought and the process of loving someone with divine love from the power of the HS.

When you hear divine love which many pastor’s relate to agape it is only achieved by the filling power of the HS and applying God’s word to that situation.

Now let’s look at Category 2 love and just get a grasp on it today because it will clarify the love picture I have tried to paint these last two lessons.

/Eph 5:22 Wives, ***be subject* to your own** (*idios*) husbands, as to the Lord.

This has the meaning of belonging to one and submitting to his authority and is written in the present tense (continue).\

[Eph 5:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/23/s_1102023) For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

TLJC is the head of the church and the good shepherd over the flock. In reflecting this the pastor is head over the church and shepherd in the human realm over the congregation…likewise the husband reflects this same principle in marriage. He is the authority figure.

/[Eph 5:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/24/s_1102024) But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands **in everything**.\

Like it or not there is a chain of command. Biblical standards call for respect for authority there is almost no exception to this rule. Perhaps if the authority is displaying mental illness and operating far outside the PPOG that is about it folks!

Respect becomes a key component in virtue love…this means that divine love has several qualities at its core that when they are missing that agape’ love is not functioning at full capacity.

Ladies before you get upset the husband has greater overall responsibility so just listen to the whole lesson before getting frustrated and shutting me out.

**/**[Eph 5:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/25/s_1102025) **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church** and gave Himself up for her,

This is a command and directed at the husband to be Christ-like in the marriage.\

[Eph 5:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/26/s_1102026) so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

[Eph 5:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/27/s_1102027) that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

/[Eph 5:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/28/s_1102028) So **husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies**. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

Each of these uses of that word *agapaō* means the thought process is in line with Bible Doctrine.\

No man or woman can be a good spouse if they do not respect their own bodies and do not love themselves properly first.

By love yourself this is a love that is void of pride so it is not selfish….make sure you understand we are not talking about narcissism.

[Eph 5:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/29/s_1102029) for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, 30 because we are members of His body.

[Eph 5:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/31/s_1102031) FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

This is has several meanings, sexual joining is one of them…a commitment to fidelity to one another.

Also there is a joining that means all other family members whether it be mother or father…brother or sister or even children… nothing & no one should get in the middle of that relationship.

[Eph 5:32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/32/s_1102032) This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

Part of mystery doctrine is the CA bride of Christ.

/Eph 5:33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* **that she respects her husband**.\

Again the emphasis is on the chain of command…for the Bel authority has deep respect inside the plan of God.

If you touch back into Genesis chapter 3 you will see right after the fall God ordained the woman should have a desire for the man and that the man would have authority over the wife.

Just so happens the two areas that married couples struggle in is well documented in scripture;

/Col 3:18 Wives, **be subject** (*hypotassō*) to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be **embittered** (*pikrainō*) against them.\

HOOP-PO-TOS-OH - means obedience to be under authority or subordinate.

PEEK-CRY-NO – is that bitterness that comes from being frustrated for a period of time…it builds from anger.

This is a huge issue in marriage…respect and bitterness because it really is the weak areas of the man & woman in marriage.

The Apostle Paul warns about marriage…that we need to realize two OSN under the same roof can bring a lot of problems.

/1Cor 7:27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. 28 But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet **such will have trouble in this life**, and I am trying to spare you.\

As we close today we need to highlight some important principles concerning love.

Because in Matthew chapter ten it becomes clear TLJC is telling Bels to have a love relationship with Him…personal love.

/Personal love when it is based in just emotion, will fail. When personal love has the foundation of thought behind it and most certainly when it is tethered to divine love it will endure.\

Without impersonal, unconditional love that only comes from our union with Christ personal love is hollow. It has not substance…and human personal love based in emotions is actually selfish it has to be satisfied for it to endure.

REPEAT

/The reference to Christ as the husband and the Bel being married to Him has great meaning. One important principle is that a marriage will have misery and difficulty in the long run if it doesn’t have both parties functioning from divine love first and then fulfilling their roles.\

It is the same with our relationship with Christ. When the Bel fails to fall in love with TLJC it means only one party is operational…TLJC, not the Bel.

When only one party fulfills the role in marriage it is weakened and not operating at full potential.

/In marriage the woman should operate in respect no matter what the husband is doing, just as the husband should love the wife void of bitterness no matter what the wife is doing. Similarly, the Bel should have respect for the authority of Christ and love Him void of any bitterness.\

ELABORATE ROLES!!!!

Christ loves the church with a tender heart and protective manner because He truly loves His bride. This is the right way to love….with the mind first and emotions secondary.

Emotions can not think!

/Divine love (*agapaō*) is a thought where as personal love relies on a combination of emotions and thought if that personal love is rooted in God’s divine love. When divine love is applied by the positive Bel they can overcome anger, jealousy or emotional turmoil within themselves and at the same time deflect these destructive emotions when others attack them.\ REPEAT

It can’t be done on sheer emotional love!

When emotions are driving the soul the person is in trouble…Bel or Unbel.

/A Bel can not apply the standards of cosmic love in their relationships and expect to have success. This includes and is more specifically directed first at our relationship with Christ.\

You should never have anger or bitterness toward TLJC even when it may appear He is not coming through for you.

You have to learn to fluctuate between agape’ love and phileo’ love.

This will become very important not only in your walk with TLJC but if you are married it is an application you had better master.

/If your thinking is flawed (cosmic) your love relationships will be weak. You can only build real love relationships from inner strength. That strength needs foundational principles to draw from. What your soul structure is built from dictates your levels of success & happiness.\

This is why we sometimes see happy Unbels in marriage.

Because they are applying doctrinal principles even though they don’t realize it and they probably have a positive attitude so that will give them a measure of success or happiness in time…it is a little slice of heaven on earth because as Unbel’s they will never see paradise.

God actually allows glimpses into heaven and blessings in time for Unbels when they walk a path that reflects His principles. ELABORATE