

# LOVE ...THE GREATEST PERSON

**God is love.** That is His nature which has been described as agape. The three other main loves in Greek culture were eros (physical love), brotherly love (phileo), and storge (friendship love). Those loves will only reach their full beauty and potential if ruled by agape love. Agape is unselfish, sacrificial, supernatural and unconditional. The best example of this love is in the Holy Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. First let's examine the key differences between eros love and agape love through a chart by Nygren.

## EROS

1. Desire of good for self
2. Man's effort to ascend
3. Man's way to God
4. Man's achievement
5. Egocentric love
6. Seeks to gain life
7. Desires to have and possess, resting on a sense of need
8. Primarily human love
9. Recognizes value of the object
10. Love by lowly for the high
11. Impulsive and promiscuous
12. Uses others to achieve happiness

## AGAPE

- Selfless giving
- Comes down from heaven
- God's way to man
- A free gift
- Unselfish love
- Lives by God's life and dares to lose it
- Freely gives and spends as it rests on God's riches
- Primarily God's own love
- Loves and creates value in the object
- Love by high for the lowly
- Freely spontaneous and protects
- Does good to people

## **Agape:**

- Makes the **first move** towards a person - 1 John 4:19  
**Fear** causes people to move away from difficult people or situations  
**Anger** causes people to react against others  
God's love inspires love, forgiveness, reconciliation and correction towards others
- Drives out all fear - 1 John 4:18 such as praying in public, praying for the sick, operating in the gifts of the Spirit -2 Timothy 1:6-9, receiving Holy Spirit -Luke 11:11-13
- Agape is unconditional - Matthew 10:8, Luke 6:32-35
- Agape is spontaneous and free - Deuteronomy 7:7-8, Hosea 14:4

**God's love is a lost love. It is the nature of love to suffer betrayal, since it is exposed to all the uses and the abuses of all men. - Martin Luther**

Not everyone returns God's love or says thanks - Luke 17: 11-19

Have you ever felt betrayed? Describe your feelings.

How may God feel if betrayed? Genesis 6:1-7, John 13:18-31, Psalm 55:12-14

- Agape is righteous, compassionate Exodus 34:6-7, Hosea 10:12 He protects his people from the pagans who would draw them into idolatry. (pagan gods have immoral love)

**One day Charles Spurgeon noticed a weathervane on the roof of a farm building which bore the phrase.....**GOD IS LOVE.** He asked the farmer if he thought that God's love was as changeable as that weather vane. The farmer responded: 'You miss the point sir. It is on the weather vane because no matter which way the wind is blowing, God is still love.'**

## God's Love Triangle

One Christian writer wrote that God created man because He was lonely. This is not true, because God is self-sufficient with no needs. There has always been a flow of love between the three members of the Godhead. They are the original family, three in one. Our view of God effects how we live and love. History is filled with faulty and fatal concepts of god.

- **Pagan myths** - They see man's creation as only an afterthought to serve the gods and do their dirty work. Only the Bible says man was made in God's image and gives a separate account of the creation of woman. These gods need to be appeased by blood sacrifices and can be capricious, cruel and unmerciful.
- **Islam** - Known as the religion of the sword; it is based on law, justice and retribution. 24 times the Koran tells us that God (Allah) does not love sinners. In Arab schools some children are named after bloodthirsty wicked dictators like Stalin and Hitler. They have followed iron-fisted man like Saddam Hussein that reign with force and fear because that is like the image of their god.
- **Christianity** - A loving Trinity (a Tri-unity). There are two types of unity in the Bible: absolute and compound.

**Absolute unity** (Hebrew=yachad) is numerical oneness. It is used 12 times in the O.T. eg. Zechariah 12:10, Judges 11:34. **This term is never used of God.**

**Compound unity** (Hebrew=echad) is collective unity and includes more than one person. It is used 100's of times in the O.T. eg. Adam and Eve (2 separate persons became one (echad) flesh - Genesis 2:24. Israel's main confession has been : 'The Lord our God is one (echad) Lord' - Deuteronomy 6:4

**One key aspect of love in relationships is unity, agreement and peace.**

**Trinity in Creation** - In the beginning God (Elohim/plural form) created (singular term) the heavens and the earth. Gen.1:1-3. Let us make man in our image. - Gen.26,27; John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-17

**Trinity at Tower of Babel** - Let us go down.....Genesis 11:7

**Trinity at Baptism of Jesus** - Father speaks, Son immersed, Holy Spirit upon as dove

**Three in one image of God seen in creation** - Psalm 19:1-2, Romans 1:19-20

- **Light** (3 major colors) yellow, red, blue
- **Water** (3 forms) liquid, ice, steam
- **The Universe** time, space, matter
- **Time** past, present, future
- **Space** length, width, breadth
- **Matter** energy, motion, phenomena
- **Man** spirit, soul, body

- **Noah's Ark** three levels
- **The Tabernacle** three rooms
- **The Ark of the Covenant** three items

The Bible is full of great teachings, history and stories but it also about **relationships**. The Holy Trinity is a great example of what good relationships should be like. They express love and honor to one another and know their personal roles.

**The Father Loves the Son** - He trusted him to represent his character and ability to mankind when he sent him to earth. He affirmed, encouraged and empowered him for the task he was called to. He showed what a leader and father should be. - Hebrews 1:6-9, Matthew 3:17, Mark 9:7 (baptism and transfiguration).

**'The Father loves the Son and shows him all he does.'** - John 5:19-20  
**Jesus knew the Father's seal of approval.** - John 6:27

- A. What does this reveal about the Father and the Son?
- B. How did you feel when someone trusted you with an important task?
- C. What can parents, leaders and others learn from this example?
- D. Why is Jesus entrusted with all judgment? - John 5:22-23

A wonderful Jewish custom is for the parents to lay hands on their children weekly and pronounce blessings upon them. We will have another message on the **Power of the Blessing**.

**Jesus Loved the Father** He kept in daily contact with the Father at headquarters in the heavenly realm. He lived in full submission, respect, honor and obedience to the Father. He usually called his miracles 'works of God' or 'works of the Father' and said he could do nothing without the Father.

**'Jesus took the place and fulfilled the destiny of man as a creature by his life of perfect humility. His humility is our salvation and his salvation is our humility.'** - Andrew Murray

John 1:18 / 5:22,23,30,36,37 / 7:16-18 / 8:14-18,28,29,42 / 12:26-29,44-50  
 14:6-11 / 17:1,3,11,25.

Just before Jesus went to his crucifixion in obedience to the Father, he expressed longing and loving thoughts for his Father and the glory they had together in heaven - John 17:5,24. The Father was proud of his Son who had left the glories of heaven and emptied himself when he came to earth as a humble servant - Philippians 2:8. His earthly life and death was a sacrifice pleasing to God and for the Father's glory so that he could purchase a great family of worshipers unto God.

**A large population is a king's glory. Proverbs 14:28 NIV**  
**In a multitude of people is a king's honor.** - Proverbs 14:28 NKJV

## **The Father Returned Honor to Jesus**

Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place, rank, dignity and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess (agree openly) that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

- Philippians 2:9-11 Amplified

## **Jesus Honors the Father**

After Jesus reigns over the earth for 1000 years during the millennium, He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father and be subject to him. - 1 Cor. 15:20-28.

Then comes the end, when he (Jesus) delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when he puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign til He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. v.24-26

Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to all things under Him, that God may be all in all. v.28

## **The Holy Spirit Honors the Father and the Son**

The Holy Spirit is not a force or a feeling but a person who can be received, grieved, resisted, quenched and even blasphemed. He does not like to draw attention to Himself as He is the Spirit of Truth who seeks to honor Jesus and the Father by their truth, power and love. He speaks only what He hears from them. How wonderful is the harmony, honor and humility the Trinity exhibit towards one another.

- A. What can churches and families learn from their example?
- B. How can we apply these principles to our churches and family?

## **Josiah's Fire**

A few years ago I was inspired and intrigued by the story of Josiah, a young boy who received special insights about the Trinity. You can see his story at the website:

**Sidroth.org** (in archives go to: **Tahni Cullen** / March 26, 2017 and **Max Davis** 10/17/21 for 2 programs about Josiah)

Read of the experience of the autistic young boy who interacts with the members of the Trinity IN THE SPIRIT REALM. The book "Josiah's Fire" records the experiences of this autistic child (who cannot speak or write) from what he recounted to his mom by typing on a tablet. How could he communicate in this impossible way? He was tutored in the spirit, while in the Realm of Heaven every day.

Here is his description of the members of the Trinity. Josiah's grammar is not good, so it's a bit hard to read, but you'll get the idea. (I grouped the ideas into bullet points)

"In the Trinity:

- The Father is the manager.
- The Son is the lover of operations.
- Holy Spirit is worker.
- So it's the three-in-one getting things done.

- The world was created only by three functions that went like this:
- Father thought it.
- Son loved it.
- Holy Spirit carried out the plan.

That is how Trinity works, Mom.

Father, Son, Holy Spirit lack nothing. And they all talk together about how things should go.  
Life is simple if you know he is Papa.”

[jesusreigns.net](http://jesusreigns.net)