

In our language, love is a generic term. As mentioned, this accounts for some of the confusion. In the language used in the New Testament, several different terms denoted specific relationships or responsibilities. You could say “love,” and based on the word used, mean something distinct. Here are four terms worth knowing:

1. The Greeks often spoke of *eros*. Though we don’t see the specific term in Scripture, it referred to sexual or erotic desires. When Paul talks about the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21), some of the activities mentioned fall within the category of *eros*. Lust, fornication and unbridled passions are forms of erotic love. The natural desire of the husband and wife toward each other also falls within the meaning (1 Cor. 7:1-6). So the term is neutral. The application would determine whether the love was pure or not.

2. Another is *storge*, which is a more generic term for affection. Greeks sometimes used the word to describe the feelings of family members toward each other. A form of this appears in Romans 1:31, where Paul spoke of people “without affection.” Based on his reference to their rejection of parental authority in the same context, he might be referring specifically to their abandonment of family. They were callused to the needs of their own, hence “unloving.”

3. We are more familiar with *philia*, which we appropriately identify as brotherly love. This refers to the deep affection generated through friendships. In the places where it is used in the New Testament, the word describes our care and respect for each other. Our benevolence is a form of this love. We are to love one another with brotherly love (Rom. 12:10). We are to let brotherly love continue (Heb. 13:1). As an example, consider the ending of almost every letter from Paul. He pauses to praise, pray for, congratulate and encourage his co-workers. The church was Paul’s social network.

4. The last is *agape*. This is the one that will determine how we apply all the rest, because this is the love that comes only from God. “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:7-8). We will spend our time in the next article exploring this beautiful and necessary love.

*More next week...*

# ***NORTH HAMILTON CHURCH OF CHRIST***



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**June 28, 2020**

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## **“What Is Love? (Part 2)”**

**David B. Smith**

Part of what adds to the confusion about love is the way we loosely throw the term at everything. I love tacos. I love music. I love the fall of the year. I love books. You get the gist. We employ the term to describe preference and emotional attachment. I’m not saying we can’t use the term like this. We just need to understand that Biblical love is different. We might love tacos or music but that isn’t the same love God demonstrates toward us and requires us to demonstrate to others. We understand the difference practically. The way we love our family is vastly different than we love a particular food. So there are different kinds of love.

### Prayer List

James Anderson	Danny Curvin	Judy Lusk
Patricia Anthony	Tommie Grandfield	Tony Miller
Jim Bethune	Bill Greer	Lexi Owens
Nancy Birch	Fred Hafley	Carlos Shannon
Mike Bouldin	Kathy Hamilton	Janice Smith
Susie Hargis	Bessie Smithson	Isaac Cooper
Grayson Ledbetter	Diane Stacy	Loretta Leffew
John Webster		

### Announcements

- **Wedding Bells:** Art Greer presided over the wedding of Jonathan Rinkle and Caroline Crowder on Saturday afternoon. Caroline is great niece to Art and Gloria. Jonathan and Caroline have been attending North Hamilton for some time now. We wish them well and a happy and lengthy marriage.
- **Attendance:** There were 134 in attendance in the combined services last Sunday. Again, there are several who do not feel comfortable yet in attending. One local congregation is now back to live streaming services due to exposure to Covid-19 at a recent service. The elders join you in praying for a quick return to our normal service times.
- **Wednesday Evenings:** This is just a reminder that David is on YouTube and Facebook each Wednesday evening at six with a weekly lesson on the nature of God.
- **Reminders:** Our online worship service is still being posted to Facebook and YouTube each Sunday morning and, for those who wish to do so, contributions can still be made using Venmo: NorthHamilton-ChurchOfChrist or can be mailed to P O Box 517, Soddy-Daisy, TN 37384

### Our Sick and Recovering

- **Ellen Miller**, Cindy Haynes' mother, has been diagnosed with cancer and faces a short life expectancy due to the spread of the disease. Keep Cindy and the Miller family in your prayers.
- **Carolyn Lasater** asks for prayers as she will have two stents inserted Monday due to two blockages. Pray that this procedure is entirely successful.

### Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

- 9 –Ginger Wilson, Patricia Farmer
- 10 – Sadie Randolph
- 12 – Darlene Doak
- 16 –David Smith
- 17 – Alisha Lowman, Curt Stewart, George Bell
- 18 – Doug Rector
- 19 – Phyllis Wells, Savannah Qualls, Bobby Haynes
- 20 – Bob Newsom
- 21 – Norma Griffith
- 28 – Debbie Cooper
- 30 – David Walker
- 31 – Marilyn Everett

#### Anniversaries

- 7 – Justin & Beth Tripp
- 12 – Millis & Shirley Jackson
- 17 – John & Judy Germ
- 26 – Doug & Sue Wright, Joe & Erica Anderson
- 28 – Kenny & Cindy Rose