

### What is love? There are four Greek (NT) words for love

- Eros romantic, sexual
- Storge family e.g. mother and child e.g. Mary, Martha and Lazarus 2 Tim 3:3(NIV)
- Philio brotherly, strong affection, friendship Romans 12 :10 Natural love
- Agape selfless, God's type of love, unconditional. John 14 :21, Ephesians 3 :17-19  
Supernatural love

### Dictionaries say...

1. Strong feeling of affection, attachment
2. Passionate desire, longing, and feelings for, attraction
3. like very much
4. Devotion towards
5. zero in tennis!

### God's love within the Trinity

The persons of the trinity express love. John 3 :35, 5 :20 14 :31

### God's love and us Why does God love us?

Why? Not because we were so lovable! - Jeremiah 17 :9 Romans 3 :10-12

It is his nature to love ! 1 John 4 :16 1 John 4 :19 He initiated love to us Romans 5 :8

We are his creation Isaiah 49 :15 Zechariah 2 :8

Looking for a logical reason? Deuteronomy 7 :6-8

### Love, our bond with God

Romans 8 :34-39 remaining in His love helps us to face life's tests.

We should live in God's love. Sometimes hard to hold the right balance.

Cannot give what we have not received 1 John 4 :19

Love can be our clothing Colossians 3 :12-14 Think- What does clothing do for us?

<u>1 Corinthians 13</u>		
	<i>If I speak... If I have prophecy ...If I understand .. If I have faith .. If I give..</i>	← Calls us to look at what is important, centred on me or others? Status?
'Abiding under'	→ <i>Love is patient</i>	← long tempered
Greek—useful, practical	→ <i>and kind;</i>	
	→ <i>love does not envy or boast;</i>	← GK- Linked with intellectual pride
No place for 'superiority feelings'	→ <i>it is not arrogant or rude.</i>	← Love is sensitive c.f. 14 v34, 11 v21
	→ <i>It does not insist on its own way;</i>	← Self interest always leads to discord
Easily angered c.f. 1 Peter 2 v22-23	→ <i>it is not irritable or resentful;</i>	
	→ <i>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing,</i>	← alt- Keeps no record of wrong, do we hold on to the wrongs done to us?
Philips -'is not touchy' Luke 6 :29	→ <i>but rejoices with the truth.</i>	
Protects- 'to keep off something that threatens'	→ <i>Love bears all things,</i>	
	→ <i>believes all things,</i>	← Love with discernment
	→ <i>hopes all things,</i>	
From military, 'holding up under fire'	→ <i>endures all things.</i>	← Always looking for the triumph of truth

## Who should we love?

1. God Deuteronomy 6 :5 Matthew 10 :37 – God has to be first, but then all others fall into place.
2. Our husbands/wives Ephesians 5 :25 & 28
3. Our family I Timothy 5 :8
4. Our Church family Romans 12 :10 Matthew 12 :49-50 I Peter 2 :17
5. Strangers and neighbours Galatians 5 :14 Matthew 25 :35
6. Our enemies Luke 6 :35 Romans 12 :20

Our emotional involvement may vary between these! Emotions don't always form part of love. From the heart, is different.

## Love and the Christian

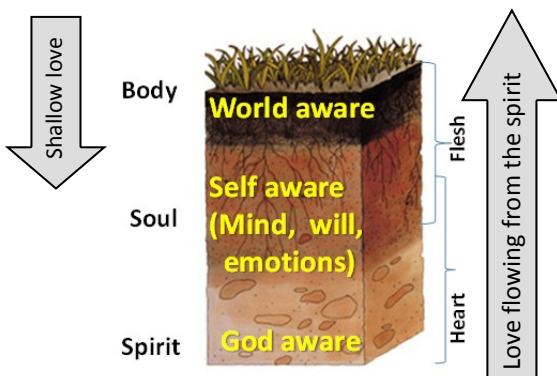
Love is an evidence that God is working within us. Matthew 7 :20 Galatians 5 :22

Our loving should not depend on the person we love, loving us back e.g. Hosea 1 :2, 3 :1-3

It reveals if our heart, is soft or hard Ezekiel 36 :26-27, James 1 :27

## Ten practical ways we can show love

- A) Hospitality Hebrews 13 :2 Romans 12 :13
- B) Financial support I Corinthians 16 :1-2
- C) Empathy Romans 12 :15
- D) Stick with people through difficult times—Ruth 1
- E) Encouraging words I Thessalonians 9 :11 Hebrews 10 :24
- F) Thoughtful acts Ephesians 4 :32
- G) Listen to people James 1 :19
- H) Not to be judgemental Matthew 7 :1-5
- I) Rise above petty quibbling over minor issues 2 Timothy 2 :23
- J) Hug Romans 16 :16



## How does love work in us?

The World cries out for love, to feel it sexually and in our emotions. If it cannot be found in one source, move on, keep searching.

There is a desire in the World to see end to war and conflict, but without a change in human nature, how can that happen?

True love flows from a spirit where God's spirit abides.

I John 4 :7 John 7 :38

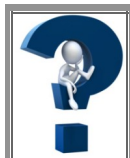
A Christian can feel love on every level!

## Issues about love

1. Modern thinking often focuses on just loving ourselves. Idolatry? Can we love ourselves in the wrong way? Mark 12 :31
2. People want a 'Loving God' but not other aspects of his divinity.  
A Survey found 75% of people liked to think of God as friend, rather than King.  
What percentage would like the concept of Judge?  
Malachi 1 :2-3 'Hated' - Not popular verse!
3. We cannot just enjoy God's love without passing it on to others.

## To Conclude

*True Christian love, is focused firstly on God, then expressed in worship, obedience and service.*



Is there a time when you have to give up on some people?

How do we love ourselves in the 'right way'?

How do we show our love for God in real life?

