

# HOW TO LOVE GOD MORE

*John 21:15-17, 17*

I was counseling someone several months ago who got into trouble. This person said, I don't know why I struggle in the Christian life. Can you help me? I said something that shocked him. I said, I don't think so, and here's why. You want me to give you guidelines to follow and rules to keep, but if your heart is not in it, it's not going to work.

## OPENING STATEMENTS

### LOVE IS THE KEY MOTIVATING FACTOR IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

### YOU WILL ONLY GO AS FAR IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE AS YOUR LOVE WILL TAKE YOU

I told this person that he was right where he wanted to be

If he wanted to change it would have to begin with his heart

The life we live is a reflection of the love we have

If fact, love determines it all. Faith, Obedience, Service

### THE MAIN REASON WE DON'T LIVE AS WE SHOULD IS BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE PHILEO LOVE FOR THE LORD

We think agape love is the key love that God is concerned a about, but that is not true

We love the Lord with agape love, but the problem is that we often don't love the Lord with *Phileo* love

Notice, in verse 15 Jesus said, lovest thou me more than these [ fish, or fishing ]

Peter loved fishing. It was his occupation before he got saved

And Jesus said, do you love me more than fishing

- The word for love is translated from the word agape in verse 15
- In verse 16, the word translated love is agape
- But in verse 17, the word translated love is phileo

### THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AGAPE LOVE AND PHILEO LOVE

Agape is basically divine love. Phileo is human love

- Agape love comes from the heart of God, phileo love comes from the heart of man
- When a person gets saved, they inherit agape love
- Agape love is not something that humans naturally have, it is a gift of God
- It is a fruit of the Spirit
- Agape love is a choice, but phileo love determines the choices you make

Agape is a choice. Phileo is a feeling

- So when we choose to obey we exercise agape love
- Furthermore, God never commanded you to do something that you cannot decide to do
- The commands to love in the Bible are all commands to exercise agape love
- There are no commands to have phileo love
- For example, husbands are commanded to love there wives
- We are to love our neighbor as ourself
- We are to love our enemies
- This is something you can decide to do right now

Phileo is in response to the delighting of the senses

- For example taste: I love pizza
- Hearing: I love good music
- Phileo love is felt, agape love is given

Agape love takes the initiative

- Phileo love loves the lovely, Agape love is no respecter of persons
- Phileo love loves her because she's pretty, Agape loves her because she's ugly
- Phileo love changes, Agape love is constant. Phileo changes because our likes change

Agape love is giving, phileo love is receiving

Phileo love come from you. Agape love flows through you

Agape love an act of the will; it's a choice. Phileo love is affection; it's emotional love

Phileo love is the basis of worship, It's strong feelings for, It's devotion

## **IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF AGAPE LOVE, IT'S A QUESTION OF PHILEO LOVE**

### **BECAUSE ALL CHRISTIANS HAVE AGAPE LOVE**

You get it when you get saved

Phileo is what motivates agape, and without phileo the love of many shall wax cold

### **AND WE HAVE PHILEO LOVE BECAUSE IT IS HUMAN LOVE**

But phileo love is your love. Phileo love can grow and get stronger

Now, follow me, when you give God agape love. That is good, but that's not your love your giving

But when you give God phileo love, you are giving your heart

- Phileo, come from you
- Agape flows through you

## **SO HOW TO LOVE GOD MORE**

### **FIRST, UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN LEARN HOW TO HAVE PHILEO LOVE**

Look at Titus 2:4. It says that you can be taught how to have phileo love for your husband

It comes more natural for a man to phileo his wife because he is excited by sight

### **SECOND, UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN RETRAIN YOUR TASTES**

Develop a taste for the things of God

Then you've to seek to satisfy those tastes

### **HOW CAN YOU DEVELOP A TASTE FOR THE THINGS OF GOD**

Develop a taste for preaching that glorifies God, etc

Develop a taste for the word of God

Develop of taste for Christ centered music

Agape love is a choice, but phileo love determines the choices you make