

The Many Faces of God's Love

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Introduction

Today's topic,

- Another aspect of - Unshakeable Foundations
- The strength of any relationship depends on the nature, character of those involved
 - E.g. If someone is undisciplined, quick tempered, self centred the relationship is on shaky ground.
- Today's focus on key attributes of God's Nature – Agape Love
 - The more we come to know, experience and rely on Gods' Nature the stronger is our foundation
- Every human being wants/needs to be loved and to love. We were created that way.
- A lot of confusion is in the world about what love is and isn't

The world's View of Love

- The world searches to know God and his nature
- Worldly music Beatles - All you need is Love! All I need is the air that I that breath just to love you, Love is in the Air, What the world needs now is love sweet love not just for some but for everyone
- What love got to do with it? Good question
- Worldly attempts to define love miss the mark of Gods true nature yet we search to fill a void only God can fill

Some Basic Questions

- What is love?
- Where does it come from?
- Where does it go?
- How do we get it?

God is Agape 1Jn 4:7-8 and 15-16

What does this mean?

- God is the source of love
- His Love is everywhere!!!!
- Defining Love/God (you cannot put him in a box. However there is much we can learn about Him.

What is Agape? ." - Gal.5:22-24

- -Agape is a fruit of the spirit.
- The fruits are what Christians should demonstrate in their new lives with Jesus Christ.

How do we get Agape? Where does it abide?

- Rom.5:4-6 (New King James Version) Receive God's love
 - God s Love and other fruits, transferred to our heart by the HS
 - God desires to share his nature heart to heart!
 - Love and other fruits not a mind thing!
 - However, ideas of what love is may need to be changed. Transformation is needed

Are we Sons or Daughters of God the Father?

Feeling the Love of the Father

- Do you feel you have your Fathers love (Agape) in your heart?
 - But there are many attributes to Agape!
 - The many faces of God's love - 1Cor.13:4-8
 - The attributes of Agape help us to perceive what true love really is
 - Many of these challenge us
 - These challenges are areas to increase our capacity to love

One of the greatest Love stories in the Bible! –

The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32

- The father demonstrated the attribute of Agape love - 1Cor.13:4-8

- He treated the eldest son with the same Agape love as the Prodigal son.
- In a way they were both prodigal Sons and he loved both of them.
- The father's Agape love was a firm foundation for the relationships.
- Agape is part of God's nature. He wants us to have it.

The many faces of His Agape love

- It is unshakeable, receive the power of his love

Experiencing God's Love

Blockers of Love

- We do not believe we are worthy to be loved,
- Fear of being hurt (bad experiences with worldly love)
- Confusion on what God has for you

Only Believe

- We need a Revelation of Gods love – **Jn.3:16-18**
 - A Fathers request, His Son gave up His deity and became a man,
 - Gethsemane the decision of the ages, Golgotha death, Burial and the resurrection!!!!
 - Love that has no measure

Increase your capacity to love

- Believe He loves you and Love is yours!
- Expand your Agape capacity, start believing you have each attribute of Agape
- The power of his love in you will give you the strength you need to be transformed

Let the transformation begin!

- Agape – God's gift to mankind
- **1Jn.4 :18** - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear
 - We can trust in Him (hide our heart in Him) we are safe
 - He will never leave you or forsake you
- **1Pet.4:8** - And above all things have fervent love for one another, for *“love will cover a multitude of sins”*.
- Gods love never fails

Receive the power of Love. It's here to set you free!

Questions to Consider

1. Why has the world so distorted what true Love really is?
2. Have you experienced Agape in your life, and how does it differ from the world's view of Love?
3. What attribute(s) of Agape from 1Cor.13:4-8 do you find the most difficult to abide in?
4. How do you think expanding your capacity to Love will give you a stronger foundation?