

THE FIVE TYPES OF LOVE

WHAT IS LOVE?

In this fast-paced, self-centered, get-all-you-can-get-society, the one thing that we need and yet don't understand, is love!

So what is this strange word that we use for our spouse, our children, our car, our job, our favorite food, or anything else that we seem to enjoy at the moment?

I would like to give you the 5 Greek words for love and their definitions. This will help in understanding the word, the emotions and will that are associated with it.

1. PHILEO=FRIENDSHIP OR BROTHERLY LOVE

We in the States have a famous city named after this Greek word. It is Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Let's look at the word "Philadelphia."

"adelphia" comes from the Greek word "adelphos" and is for *brotherhood or brotherly*. It denotes a community based on identity of life.

"phil" comes from the Greek word "phileo" and is for *tender affection or love*.

So it is suppose to be the city of brotherly love. This is a **conditional love!** This means that I will be your friend if you will be my friend. It is a total conditional relationship based totally upon the will and the emotions of the moment and the circumstances. True friendship is one that has taken the time to get to know one another and which is committed to one another. There are friends that "say", "we will be friends forever, no matter what happen". Many marriages start out like this, in, which the couple commits to being friends first and forever. But that conditional commitment breaks down in the heat of disagreement or in the neglect of relationship.

"Phileo" friendship love is used 36 times in the New Testament. I will only list a few of the Scriptures.

Luke 20:46 ESV "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love (**phileo**) greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts,

John 15:19 ESV If you were of the world, the world would love (**phileo**) you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

THE FIVE TYPES OF LOVE

Notice in the following verses that our Lord Jesus Christ told Peter if He loved Him with God's unconditional love and Peter could only answer that He loved Jesus with a friendship love.

John 21:15 ESV When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "**Simon, son of John, do you love (agape) me more than these?**" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love **(phileo)** you." He said to him, "**Feed my lambs.**"

John 21:16 ESV He said to him a second time, "**Simon, son of John, do you love (agape) me?**" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love **(phileo)** you." He said to him, "**Tend my sheep.**"

The third time our Lord asked Peter if He loved Him, He changed His word usage from agape to phileo.

John 21:17 ESV He said to him the third time, "**Simon, son of John, do you love (phileo) me?**" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "**Do you love (phileo) me?**" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love **(phileo)** you." Jesus said to him, "**Feed my sheep.**"

Titus 3:15 ESV All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love **(phileo)** us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

Matthew 10:37 ESV **Whoever loves (phileo) father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves (phileo) son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.**

John 12:25 ESV **Whoever loves (phileo) his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**

2. EROS=ROMANTIC LOVE

Remember the dating days, the buying of flowers and sweets and other kind things that one would do to woo that opposite sex? Romance was seen in the opening of doors, going out for supper together, and notes in the lunch bag or on the bathroom mirror. All or most of these things end so quickly...why?

Like "friendship love", "**romantic love**" is also **conditional**. It takes time to plan and complete, it and involves the will and emotions. I must "feel" romantic and choose to respond to the feelings of my mate. But what happens if my constant attempts of romance is rejected? Then I shut down emotionally and the "will" chooses to be numb in this area.

This is a dynamic that happens in many marriages that start out so great in romance and dating. One or both parties start taking one another for granted and then the simple

THE FIVE TYPES OF LOVE

things that we do for one another gets forgotten. This leads to a wall of hurt and disappointment between the couple that grows over months and years and causes even greater and deeper problems.

This Greek word was so culturally corrupt in the first century that it was not used in the New Testament. It had fallen from the place of romantic love to sexual perversion. The Hebrew version is used in the Book of Song of Solomon for romantic love. The Greek word eros is the root word for our English word erotic.

3. EPITHUMIA=PHYSICAL LOVE

"epithumia" has two meanings and is used in the Bible as positive and negative.

The positive: epithumia means the healthy **"physical desire"** between a husband and wife. God says that the marriage bed is undefiled. It is the plan of God for a husband and wife to enjoy one another physically.

The negative: epithumia is also used in the word **"lust"**. It denotes many things, such as...

1. The physical desire of someone *outside of marriage*, (fornication, adultery, homosexual, conduct).
2. The *desire for the world* or the things of the world, (lust for recognition, promotions, things such as cars, houses, and etc., titles). This is a form of spiritual adultery against God. This is why God sent Israel into captivity in the book of Jeremiah and Isaiah.

Again, we find that this is conditional and at the mercy of the couple. It is the "I will love you if you will love me attitude". This physical desire for one another is usually "lust" during the dating time and must be repented of and redeemed if it is ever to become godly and biblical physical desire within the marriage. Otherwise, one could be married for years and never get past the once-in-a-while lust for one another. That is physical relations, which is selfish and demanding without the feelings of the spouse.

"Epithumia" is used 38 times in the New Testament with the English words of...

1. Lusts, 22 times

Mark 4:19, John 8:44, Romans 1:24, 6:12, 13:14, Galatians 5:24, Ephesians 2:3, 4:22, 1Timothy 6:9, 2Timothy 2:22, 3:6, 4:3, Titus 2:12, 3:3, 1Peter 1:14, 2:11, 4:2-3, 2Peter 2:18, 3:3, Jude 1:16, 1:18

2. Lust, 9 times

Romans 7:7, Galatians 5:16, James 1:14-15, 2Peter 1:4, 2:10, 1John 2:16-17

3. Concupiscence, 3 times

Romans 7:8, Colossians 3:5, 1Thessalonians 4:5

THE FIVE TYPES OF LOVE

4. Desire, 3 times
Luke 22:15, Philippians 1:23, 1Thessalonians 2:17

5. Desired, 1 time
Matthew 13:17

"Epithumia" denotes "strong desire" of any kind. The word is used of a good desire only in Luke 22:15; Philippians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:17.

Everywhere else it has a bad sense. In Romans 6:12 the injunction against letting sin reign in our mortal body to obey the "lust" thereof, refers to those evil desires which are ready to express themselves in bodily activity. They are equally the "lusts" of the flesh, Romans 13:14; Galatians 5:16,24; Ephesians 2:3; 2 Peter 2:18; 1 John 2:16, a phrase which describes the emotions of the soul, the natural tendency towards things evil. Such "lusts" are not necessarily base and immoral, they may be refined in character, but are evil if inconsistent with the will of God.

4. STORGE=COMFORTABLE LOVE, (OLD SHOE LOVE)

This is a great place to get in relationships. It is the feelings of **rest and comfort** with one another. This should be in marriages and in friendships. In the years of developing the friendship you grow at peace with one another. This is why this is also called "**the old shoe**" love. You feel as comfortable with your mate as your feet feel in your best old pair of shoes. You think the same and desire to be together. You and your mate are not walking through the house on eggshells afraid of how the other person is going to act or feel. You can be together in the living room and without saying a word, sense the love you have for one another. It is a place of security, trust, and reliability. You can count on one another.

Again, this is conditional. Why? It could take a lifetime of building this type of trust and security and in one dumb mistake on the part of one the whole thing falls apart. The trust is forever broken, the security forever lost. This can be just one moment of lust or falling to temptation. Therefore, what can take 20 years to build can take one hour to destroy.

Romans 12:10 ESV Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

The Greek word here in Romans 12:10 is a combination of "phileo" and "storge" and means to be kindly affectionate with brotherly love. To cherish. This comes from a sense of being comfortable with one another.

5. AGAPE=GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

THE FIVE TYPES OF LOVE

This is the love that is only manifested in Christians. Lost people cannot have it nor understand it. Although active in their church, religious people cannot have this unconditional love, nor can they understand it.

"Agape" or the love of God comes inside the Christian by the person of the Holy Spirit. It is not by being good or doing good things or not by treating others well.

God's love is unconditional. That means that I forgive someone who asks or not. It is to love the unlovable. To love the spouse who desires not to love back and can be in fact mean and hateful. The **love of god goes where it is not deserved nor wanted.** The Christian may not always act accordingly, and may respond in one of the other conditional love ways because of rejection or abuse or hurt. It is the heart of God, for all Christians to respond in His love. This love is not passive, nor weak. Remember that the love our Lord Jesus had for the temple meeting place caused Him to whip the money-changers out of the temple area.

God's unconditional love is an **act of the will** and not of the emotions. I choose to love in spite of being used or slandered. I choose to forgive those who act ungodly towards me, because God forgave me for acting ungodly towards him. So how I feel is not an issue to consider when choosing to love someone with God's love. This can be especially helpful in the area of marriage where one of the mates is lost and does not understand the things of God.

Remember that someone who has not tasted the warmth of the love of God and forgiveness cannot understand the things that you feel in your spirit and in your soul. The Bible says that they will never understand it until they experience it themselves. Try as you may, remember that you cannot explain the love of God intellectually to the mind of an unregenerated person. It does not compute in their brain. Also remember that the love of God is not an emotion...it is a fact based on his word. It is His character. It is who He is. God is love. The love of God is not displayed through emotion...but through action and through His will. He chose to love us when we were unlovable.

God says that he loved us and acted by sending His Son to die for us. He said that he would never leave us and acted by sending His Holy Spirit to live in us.

So when we say that we love someone with the love of God, it should be seen through our actions, and not through our emotions.

Love someone as a friend--Phileo.

Romance your spouse, (if you are married)--Eros.

Physically love your spouse-- Epithumia.

Get to the place of rest and comfort with one another--Storge.



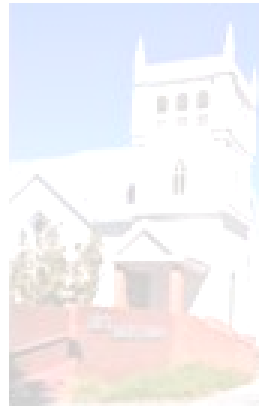
THE FIVE TYPES OF LOVE

But remember, all of these are conditional and can change overnight because of our wicked hearts.

Therefore, seek to love one another with God's unconditional love. Exercise the love of action.

1 [John 4:19 ESV](#) We love because he first loved us.

The Greek word "agape" and its different tenses are used over 310 times in the New Testament making it one of the most used words.



First Baptist Church
Apalachicola