

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE ❤️

Love: is that longing for something that we need filled (and we can't find that type of love on earth). That void if not filled already with something else – is Jesus-sized.

Love is God and God is love.

👁️ For my visual learners:

- [Agape Love](#) from The Bible Project (searchable on YouTube)

💬 Personal testimony on my encounter with God's unconditional love for me:

Well, I know in the Bible it says all you need is faith as small as a mustard seed and you can move mountains. Figuratively speaking of course, when I recently gave my life back to Jesus again in 2021, needless to say I was very bold in my prayer life. I saw the love God has for me by using me in my darkest moments and taking me back. I was believing and desiring a lot of things in 2021.

I have seen God answer a financial prayer of a full-ride scholarship for my first Masters' program and I was believing for him to provide a miracle for my second Masters. I paused my entrepreneurship endeavors in 2021 to pursue my MBA at the University of Miami. After I got accepted into their business school, I prayed and wrote down my prayers in my journal for God to fund my education. I went online and searched the University's website for grant and scholarship opportunities. I emailed the representatives of the funds and I sent in my essays. The University said, I was the first student to receive so many financial grants and scholarships that they have ever seen. I had my education fees 60% funded by several resources.

Another big thing I prayed for in the Fall of 2021 was pleading with the Lord for me to meet my husband in 2022. I remember even putting my first two-digit tithe to God and putting a name on the envelope saying "husband, new home and new job for 2022." God is moved by faith - the bigger the faith the bigger blessings He pours out. The bigger the sacrifice from yourself - the bigger the blessings He pours out. I am not just saying it but living it in real-time.

All these came to pass in 2022. I met my husband in church. We got married December 10, 2022 and we moved into our new place a week after and I got two amazing part-time jobs while going to school full-time during 2022. I prayed for a baby before the new year of 2024 and we have our beautiful daughter Isabelle Alyssa.

I walked away from God. I went back to the wrong things, did the wrong things, treated my family horribly and still God showed His unconditional love for me. Me? Yes. Me. Insert 'your name' where it says me. He loves YOU just the same.

Unconditional Love Bible Study

Four types of love

Did you know there are four types of love? According to Crosswalk there are 4 types of love: Agape love, Storge love, Phileo love and Eros love.

1. **Agape love (unconditional love)** represents the highest form of love mentioned in the Bible. It is an eternal and selfless love that is given without expecting anything in return. In the original Greek translation of the scriptural passage "God is love" (1 John 4:8), the term agape is used to describe the kind of love that God exemplifies.

Paul describes the concept of agape love in his renowned passage on love:

Read (1 Corinthians 13:4-8): *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

Paul's depiction highlights that agape love is the epitome of perfect love. God demonstrated this perfect love by sending His only Son as a sacrifice for our sins, offering us eternal life through faith in Jesus (John 3:16).

Similarly, Christ displayed agape love for His Father and humanity by living in accordance with God's will, despite knowing the immense emotional and physical suffering He would endure.

Jesus commanded us to love one another with this perfect love. This is evident from the Greek translation of His command, where a form of the word agape is used to instruct us to love others as He has loved us (John 13:35). While loving each other with agape love may seem like an unattainable goal due to our human limitations, it remains a noble aspiration that we should strive for in our words and actions throughout our lives.

2. **Storge love refers to familial love.** This term describes the deep and caring bond that naturally develops between parents and children, husbands and wives, siblings, and other individuals considered family. This type of love is resilient, protective, and loyal.

Although the word storge itself is not found in Scripture, its opposite form, astorgous, is used in the Greek translation of the Bible to mean “without natural affection.” For instance, the King James Version mentions this in Romans 1:31 (KJV). Paul warns that in the end times, people will become so selfish that they will lose any sense of natural affection for their own family (2 Timothy 3:3 KJV).

Examples of storge love in the Bible include Jairus's concern for his sick daughter (Luke 8:40-56) and Martha and Mary's grief over their brother Lazarus (John 11:1-44). Conversely, the absence of storge love is evident in Cain's act of luring and murdering his brother Abel (Genesis 4:1-11) and in Joseph's brothers, who sold him into slavery out of jealousy (Genesis 37:18-36).

3. **Phileo is specifically mentioned in the Bible and describes the warmth and affection shared by close friends,** akin to the bond between siblings.

One way to understand phileo love is to view it as storge love (familial love) extended to friends. Notably, the Greek translation of the Biblical instruction to “be devoted to one another in love” uses the word philadelphia, urging us to love our neighbors as if they were our own brothers (Romans 12:10).

An example of phileo love in Scripture is seen in the story of Lazarus's resurrection. Jesus wept upon seeing His friend Mary and others mourning Lazarus's death (John 11:33-35). Witnessing Jesus's tears, someone remarked on the depth of His love for Lazarus using a form of the word phileo, saying, “See how He loved him!” (John 11:36).

4. **Eros love refers to romantic or sexual love and is the root of the English word "erotic."** Eros, or sexual love, is not inherently impure; rather, it is a gift from God to married couples, allowing them to express their love for one another and continue the human race.

Although the word eros does not appear in Scripture, the Song of Solomon celebrates the virtues of passionate (eros) love between a husband and wife. It opens with the bride's declaration of passionate love for her husband: “Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is more delightful than wine” (Song of Solomon 1:2).

The Song of Solomon illustrates that God intended for married couples to experience both emotional and physical love.

However, eros love is unique among the types of love in that, if practiced without restraint, it can lead to sin. The Bible warns that unrestrained eros love equates to sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 5:19).

This is because eros love can damage relationships if it focuses solely on personal gratification. In contrast, agape, storge, and phileo love aim to strengthen relationships by emphasizing kindness and sacrifice.

Throughout our lives, we express love in various ways and with different levels of intensity depending on the recipient. As Christians, love is central to our beliefs.

Therefore, we should strive to show love in its highest form—agape love—as Jesus instructed us. Through love, we allow God to abide in us (1 John 4:12), and we make ourselves known to the world as Christ’s disciples (John 13:35).

Open up the Bible or YouVersion Bible app (A physical Bible is better for studies) & take a piece of paper and write your answers down (it’s so powerful when you write it down, your heart truly changes with this study!)

Unconditional Love Study

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. How does Paul describe love in these verses? Which of these characteristics do you find most challenging to live out?
2. Read Romans 5:8. How does this verse demonstrate God’s unconditional love for us?
3. Read John 3:16. How does the sacrificial nature of God’s love impact your understanding of His love for humanity?
4. Read John 15:12-13. What does Jesus teach about love in these verses? How did Jesus model this kind of love?
5. Reflect on the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet in John 13:1-17. What can we learn about unconditional love from this act?

Receiving God's Love

1. Read 1 John 4:9-10. How have you experienced God's love in your own life? How does knowing that God loves you unconditionally change the way you view yourself and others?
2. Read Matthew 5:43-48. What does Jesus say about loving your enemies? Why is this considered an expression of unconditional love?
3. Read 1 John 4:19-21. How are we called to respond to God's love by loving others? What are the practical implications of this in your daily life?

Challenges of Unconditional Love

1. Read Luke 6:27-36. What are some of the specific actions Jesus associates with loving others unconditionally? Which of these do you find most difficult, and why?
2. Reflect on a time when you found it hard to love someone unconditionally. What were the obstacles, and how did you (or could you) overcome them?

Reflecting on Personal Growth

1. Read Galatians 5:22-23. How does the fruit of the Spirit relate to living out unconditional love?
2. What steps can you take to grow in your ability to love others unconditionally?

Love in Community

1. Read Colossians 3:12-14. What qualities are essential for maintaining loving relationships within a community? How can you contribute to fostering a loving community?

Application and Prayer

- Identify specific relationships in your life where you can practice unconditional love. What changes will you make to show this kind of love?
- How can you demonstrate unconditional love to someone who has hurt you or is difficult to love?

Say this prayer out loud for God to overflow you with agape love. We can't do this on our own but the Holy Spirit is willing when our flesh is weak.

Prayer Declaration:

Heavenly Father, Please pour out a fresh outpour of your agape love. Father, I cannot do it on my own and I need Your love to fill me so I can love others the way you love them. I thank you for your goodness and mercy on me and I know that loving people is very close to your heart. Help me to love like Jesus loves, please give me strength, patience and compassion for all the relationships in my life to help it mirror God's love. Please let me operate by the fruits of the Spirit so when people see me they know the Holy Spirit is present and active. I declare it is done, I declare it in acceleration in Jesus Mighty Name Amen!

Call to salvation:

Will you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior today? Or have you known Jesus before and slipped away? He is calling you back! He died for you and me and wiped the slate clean of our sin. We have a second chance. If you want to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior or recommit your life to him, say this prayer out loud right now:

Heavenly Father, I recognize that I am a sinner and that my sin separates me from you. I repent of all my sins and confess Jesus as my Lord and my Savior. I believe with all my heart that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead. Lord Jesus, come into my heart and come into my life. The day I die, when I open my eyes, I will be in your arms. Amen!

Did you give your life to Jesus today? We want to hear from you! **Text saved to (954) 998-4054** one of the TBG members would like to pray for you and connect you with a community of believers.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/agape-storge-phileo-and-eros-love-in-scripture.html>