

Agape Love

1 John 4:7-21

August 16, 2015
Celebration · 8:45 am
Elevation · 10:45 am
Pastor Matt Doan

God is the source of Agape love. 1 John 4:7-8

"Beloved, let us love one another for love is from God..." 1 John 4:7a

- **The beautiful meaning of the Greek word "agape."** 1 John 4:7a
Mentioned 320 times in the Bible. Agape is a Greek word for love. It means sacrificial, unconditional, servant-hearted love. Agape love says, "I love you" even when it is not convenient, deserved or reciprocated.
- **God is the originator, inventor and source of agape love.** 1 John 4:7b-8
Like a freshwater spring that gives life to a river, God is the spring and source of agape love.

God gives us the perfect demonstration of Agape love. 1 John 4:9-10

"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent his only begotten Son into the world so that we might live."

1 John 4:9

- **God reveals the depth of His agape love for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.** 1 John 4:8
- **Jesus wasn't just making a sacrifice for our sins, He was the sacrifice (propitiation) for our sins.** 1 John 4:10

We are called to be ambassadors of God's Agape love. 1 John 4:11-21

"We love because He first loved us..." 1 John 4:19

- **Our visible love for one another reveals the invisible love of God.** 1 John 4:11-12
- **The triune God is present in our calling to love others.** 1 John 4:13-17
- **We can walk without fear as we live out our calling to love others.** 1 John 4:18-21

"There is nothing you can do to make God love you more! There is nothing you can do to make God love you less! His love is unconditional, impartial, everlasting, infinite, perfect!" - Richard C. Halverson

Next Steps:

1. **Place your faith in Jesus as the Savior and Lord of your life.** Use the booklet called, "The Way to Connect With God" in the seat rack in front of you as a guide to take this life-changing step, or come to a Prayer Points after today's service.
2. **Get baptized** at the beach next Sunday, August 23 at 5:00 pm at Corona del Mar Pirates' Cove. To be baptized, attend the baptism class today or next Sunday at 8:45am and 10:45am in the Worship Center Prayer Room. For more info, contact Tammy at tharris@calvarylife.org or visit calvarylife.org/baptism
3. **Be an ambassador of God's agape love** by serving on our volunteer team at the next Alpha Course. The Alpha course begins on Wednesdays from September 9 - October 18 at 6:30 - 8:30pm in the Lobby. For more info, contact Matt Doan at mdoan@calvarylife.org or visit calvarylife.org/alpha

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. **Read 1 John 4:7-8.** When did you first experience the agape love of God? How old were you? What was the setting and circumstance? Do you have any daily distractions that block you from experiencing and knowing God's agape love?
2. **Read 1 John 4:9-10 four times aloud as a group.** Take some time after reading the passage to pray together and thank God for His agape love and for sending Jesus into our world to be the sacrifice for our sins.
3. **Read 1 John 4:11-21.** We are called to be ambassadors of God's agape love to those around us. Share practical ideas of how you can live out this calling to be ambassadors of God's agape love in your home, at work, in your neighborhood and even around the world. Commit to pray for one another and hold each other accountable to live out this calling.

Digging Deeper:

Many years ago, when I was a twenty-something intern in our high school ministry here at Calvary Church, I came across this great compilation of Scripture passages titled, "The Father's Love Letter" (fathersloveletter.com). Read through this letter and take time to rejoice and praise God for his agape love for you.

My Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1
I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2
I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3 *Even the very hairs on your head are numbered.* Matthew 10:29-31
For you were made in my image. Genesis 1:27 *In me you live and move and have your being.* Acts 17:28
For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28 *I knew you even before you were conceived.* Jeremiah 1:4-5
I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12
You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16
I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. Acts 17:26
You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14
I knit you together in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13
And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6
I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44
I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16.
And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1
Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1
I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11
For I am the perfect father. Matthew 5:48
Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17
For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33.
My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11
Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3
My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalms 139:17-18
And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17
I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40
For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5
I desire to establish you with all my heart soul. Jeremiah 32:41
And I want to show you great and marvelous things. Jeremiah 33:3
If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. Deuteronomy 4:29
Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4
For it is I who gave you those desires. Philippians 2:13
I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20
For I am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18
As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11
One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4
And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. Revelation 21:3-4
I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John 17:23
For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. John 17:26 *He is the exact representation of my being.* Hebrews 1:3
He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31
And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. 1 John 4:10
I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32
If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. 1 John 2:23
And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:38-39
Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7
I have always been Father, and will always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15
My question is...Will you be my child? I am waiting for you. John 1:12-13 Luke 15:11-32

Love, Your Dad
Almighty God