

**Scripture Reference: 1 John 4:7-12 / "love, Love, or LOVE"
Loving with the love manifested by God.**

In General People Acknowledge Three "Types" of Love

- We innately realize that the word "love" covers a broad spectrum of situations and settings.

Love can be an emotive state; "I am in love," people "make love," or "love" an experience.

Love can be a relational state; There is love for family, friends, organizations, country, etc.

Love can transcend emotions, relationships, and circumstances; Unconditional love.

- This has not changed. In John's time these same divisions were acknowledged:

Eros; A feeling of passion, attraction, sensual desire and longing.

Phelos; A virtuous and devoted love, such as one would have for family and country.

Agape; Warm regard for and interest in another without consideration of relationship.

- Though used, Agape was an obscure word. It wasn't until Paul associated it with God that he infused it with meaning.

- What does, "*Warm regard for and interest in another without consideration of relationship,*" mean? It is love that:

1 Cor. 13:4-8 "*is kind and is not jealous; [it] does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. [it] never fails.*"

John Speaks of Agape Love Being Birthed in the Lives of His Readers

- John refers to agape love 13 times in 6 verses recognizing that the love demonstrated by God and propagated by His saints is distinctly different from anything else.

"Let us love/ἀγάπη one another, for love/ἀγάπη is from God."

- A Child of God is to express agape love. This is the love that flows from God to and through His children.

"Everyone who loves/ἀγάπη is born of God and knows God."

- If a person has experienced spiritual rebirth, salvation, agape love will be present. It is the inevitable result of God's presence in his or her life.

"The one who does not love/ἀγάπη does not know God, for God is love/ἀγάπη."

- The test of spiritual transformation is whether agape love is event and active.

- If agape love is not, then a person may have religion, he or she may be a good person, but such a person has not entered into a personal relationship with God.

- How can this be said? John tells us, "Because God is agape!"