

Study Guide

Study Scripture: John 13.34-35

The Celebration of Love

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Objective: to celebrate the *highest* form of love that is commanded to be shared between Christ followers.

My Mindset: Galatians 5.25, Colossians 3.2

Context: Jesus *last words* before the crucifixion was for us to love one another:

1. _____ to love – v34a. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. This is a command, not a suggestion. Christian love is an intentional choice we make every day.
2. _____ of love – 34b. that you also love one another, as I have loved you. We don't define love – Jesus demonstrated it.
3. _____ of love - 35. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (NKJV) Our love for one another is the evidence we follow Christ.

Takeaway: We are commanded to love, Christ showed us how to love, and our love for one another proves we belong to Him.

Agape = selfless, relentless, and endless - the source comes from the Holy Spirit. It is selfless and serves others and seeks what is best for them. It is relentless during difficult conditions. It is endless, enduring to the end.

1. **Selfless:** self-sacrificing, other-person-centered, always placing the needs of others before self.
1. **Relentless:** It continues to pursue the beloved even when circumstances become challenging.
2. **Endless:** It has no limits; it continues through good times and bad times being spiritually inspired.

We're commanded to walk in *agape—endless, selfless, and relentless love* with one another just like Christ (John 13:34).

Eros = self-seeking, attraction, emotional, and sexual fulfillment– the source comes from human desires and feelings. It believes relationships should not be difficult. It is not relentless nor endless. It is temporal - falling out of love.

Two types of marriages: Arranged and Dating

Human love

- Falling in love=attraction=sensual=eros
- Being in love=affection=attachment=philia
- Falling out love=too costly to maintain

Heavenly love

- Falling in love=attraction=sensual=eros
- Being in love=affection=fulfillment=philia
- Staying in love=attachment=sacrifice=agape

Dating question before marriage: Do you understand what it cost to love me?

Whole Love: Mark 12.30-31

1. Love with your Heart (Spiritual Love). Spiritual love comes from God's Spirit that empowers you to *bear* all things, *believe* all things, *hope* all things, and *endure* all things while growing in *perfect* love with one another in marriage.
2. Love with your Soul (Emotional Love). This is the deep affection and emotional connection with your spouse that can fluctuate in marriage. Spiritual love helps you to navigate through the ups and downs of emotions in your marriage.
3. Love with your Mind (Mental Love). Marriage requires *continual* learning on how to love your spouse. You must understand how they perceive love and respond with *thoughtful, intentional* care; *always striving* to improve and adapt your love to meet their needs.
4. Love with your Strength (Physical Love). Physical love is expressed through romance and all it entails as *words of affirmation, acts of service, quality time, thoughtful gifts, or physical touch*.

Takeaway: Takeaway: Christ followers should promote and celebrate agape love before the world, because it keeps us anchored and filled with love through life's ups and downs.

Reflection:

1. Are you loving like Jesus or reacting like the flesh?
2. Who do you need to love better?
3. Where has your love grown cold?