

# Building A Loving Family

# UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF LOVE

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

## THE DEFINITION OF GOD'S LOVE

Loved = “agapao” *verb* – “agape” *noun*

God's agape love is the only type of love that doesn't require a feeling to function and because of that it is the highest form of love and the only form of love that can be depended upon as a foundation for relationships.

# THE OPTIONS TO AGAPE LOVE

## **FIVE KINDS OF LOVE --- Greek v. English**

1. **Epithumea** – (thermos) – passion/ desire
2. **Eros** – (erotic) – sexual desire
3. **Phileo** – (Philadelphia) – brotherly love/ friendship / fond affection
4. **Storge** – family bond / natural affection
5. **Agape** – God's love – permanent and sacrificial / love by choice

# UNDERSTANDING THE SOURCE OF AGAPE LOVE

**1 John 4:16** - And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

**Galatians 5:22–23** - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

**Galatians 5:17–21** - For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

# UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF AGAPE LOVE

**1 Corinthians 13:4–7** - Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**Luke 6:27–33** - “But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. <sup>29</sup> To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold *your* tunic either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask *them* back. <sup>31</sup> And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. <sup>32</sup> “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

**1 Corinthians 13:5b-7** – “...love...thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**Galatians 5:22** – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

**Romans 5:8** - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.