

# What is Love?

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## What is Love?

People believe that love is a feeling that you have for someone, but what happens when you have a relationship with someone, whether it be a marriage, a parent-child relationship, a friendship, or any other type of relationship and that feeling is tested? Sometimes the people we love make it very difficult. How can we choose to love someone even when it is hard? How does the Bible teach us to love?

1 Corinthians 13 (NIV)

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, 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. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known*

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

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Here are a few definition of some of the words relating to love as described in the scripture above.

### Patient

- Bearing pains or trials calmly or without complaint; long suffering
- Manifesting forbearance under provocation or strain
- Not hasty or impetuous
- Steadfast despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity

### Kind

- Having or showing a tender and considerate and

helpful nature; used especially of persons and their behavior.

### **Envy**

- A feeling of grudging admiration and desire to have something that is possessed by another; spite and resentment at seeing the success of another.

### **Boast**

- A brag, a loud appraisal of oneself.

### **Self-seeking**

- Pursuing only one's own ends or interests
- Exhibiting concern only with promoting one's own ends or interests

### **Angered**

- Provoked

### **Keeps no record of wrongs**

- Does not hold a grudge

### **Does not delight in evil**

- Is not happy when bad things happen

### **Rejoices in truth**

- That which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God.

### **Protect**

- Shield from danger, injury, destruction, or damage

### **Trust**

- To have confidence or faith in

### **Hope**

- To be optimistic; expect and wish

### **Persevere**

- To be persistent, refuse to stop

### **There are three types of love:**

**Agape Love**—this word represents divine, self-sacrificing, active, volitional, and thoughtful love. In the New Testament, agape is charitable, selfless, altruistic, and unconditional. It is parental love, seen as creating goodness in the world; it is the way God is seen to love humanity, and it is seen as the kind of love that Christians aspire to have for one another.

**Phileo Love** - is a human response to something that is found to be delightful. Also known as "brotherly love."

**Erao Love** - is passionate love, with sensual desire and longing. The Modern Greek word "erotas" means "romantic love".

Something to remember Love is not a feeling it is an action, an everyday giving of oneself to another, actions take precedence over feelings. Love is a conscious daily effort and must be practiced even when the warm fuzzy feelings aren't there, feelings of affection can be and often must be learned before you actually truly love someone.

How will you choose to love?

*Heavenly Father, Thank you for Your eternal love for us, even when we don't deserve it. Help us to love like You love — deliberately, intentionally, and freely. Help us to remember that love is action and not feeling. Amen.*



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