

# Love

JOHN 15:13



# Typical Definition

- ▶ love noun
- ▶ \ 'ləv \
- ▶ Definition of love
  - ▶ (1) : strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties // maternal love for a child
  - ▶ (2) : attraction based on sexual desire : affection and tenderness felt by lovers
  - ▶ // After all these years, they are still very much in love.
  - ▶ (3) : affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests
  - ▶ // love for his old schoolmates

# Biblical Love – 4 Kinds



# Eros - ἔρως

- ▶ Not used in New Testament
- ▶ Word carried over into our language: Erotic, Eroticism.
- ▶ Only for marriage
- ▶ The most spiritually dangerous when misapplied
- ▶ It deals with sexual interest, arousal, and/or fulfillment.
- ▶ “Passionate feelings which desires the other person for themselves.”
- ▶ “Seeks to satisfy a strong urge or need within—with a certain person.”



# Philia - Φιλία

- ▶ Natural and Unforced Friendship
- ▶ Brotherly Love - Philadelphia – φιλαδελφία
- ▶ Affection, delight in the presence of another, warm feelings
- ▶ Relatively easy to enjoy
- ▶ Shared interests
- ▶ Rom. 12:10 – “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. “
- ▶ “No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends”  
(Joh. 15:15)



# Storge - Στοργή

- ▶ Family
- ▶ Familial Affection or Fraternal
  - ▶ Family members or close acquaintance
- ▶ Could apply to animals such as pets
  - ▶ Possibly Unhealthy
- ▶ Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3 astorgos—“without natural affection” (unloving—NKJV)



# Agape - Ἀγάπη

- ▶ “Godly love”
- ▶ Not affection or sexual feelings
  - ▶ Not an impulse of feelings.
- ▶ It is an exercise of the mind or the will
- ▶ “I will try to think, speak, and act towards another in a way that is **best for them**, not for me necessarily, regardless of my feelings for or about them.”
- ▶ Commanded by God. (Jn. 13:34)
- ▶ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (1Pe. 4:8)



# Conclusion

- ▶ Storge – Family love
  - ▶ Phileo – Brotherly love
  - ▶ Eros – Husband & Wife love
  - ▶ Agape – Love like God loves Us
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- ▶ All primarily different with some overlap
  - ▶ Storge and Phileo is what we know best
  - ▶ Eros is where some struggle, especially singles
  - ▶ Agape is what we need to develop