

Human Wisdom is Foolishness

Lord, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him! **Psalm 144:3. {UL 183.1}**

The Lord has a place for every man and every woman, whether young, middle-aged, or old. When men and women find their place, there will be a work done for the Lord that has not yet been done. Great weakness has come upon the people of God because ... [some] have left the Lord Jesus, because they have lost out of their lives His Spirit, His love, His rich grace. They have lifted up their souls unto vanity, and have planned in human wisdom, supposing human talent to be their strength. Thus, they bring upon themselves weakness and perplexity. In their dependence on humanity, they forget that men and women are finite, erring, naturally selfish, and that their planning is sure to be mingled with dross. **{UL 183.2}**

The most gifted of human beings, men and women of the broadest minds and deepest comprehension, those most highly cultured and most highly educated, those who stand in the world as rulers, are infants in comparison with God in their understanding of the things of eternity. And because they have so limited knowledge of Him, because they know so little of His ways, His mind, His character, they are in danger of making themselves gods.... **{UL 183.3}**

Those who are not conscious of God's greatness, His omnipotence, will intrude themselves as great and wise, but they are mere nothingness. In God's sight they are as little children, that cannot walk alone, yet they feel fully competent to handle the greatest problems. They suppose that if they can unite and consolidate their talents, they will make a grand success. But the greater the number united, the greater will be the failure unless they seek to know and understand God. It is not numbers combined in unions that brings man into harmony with heaven. **{UL 183.4}**

There are many, very many, who, inexperienced and unreasoning, suppose themselves wise enough to do anything they may wish to do. With God, their wisdom is foolishness. They need to remember that they are only children in wisdom, and that before they can know themselves, they must learn of God. **{UL 183.5}**

God is our Father, and He will teach all who come to Him, realizing that their human wisdom is foolishness. As they take hold of His strength, and make peace with Him, living by His Word, He will unite His strength with their weakness, His knowledge with their ignorance, making them strong in Him. He will give them the care adapted to their necessities. Those who trust in Him as their Teacher will not stumble or fall.—Manuscript 88, June 18, 1902, "A Worldwide Work." **{UL 183.6}**

SONG SERVICE

1. Be still, my soul: The Lord is on thy side.
With patience bear thy cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide.
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: Thy best, thy heav'nly Friend
Thru thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2. Be still, my soul: Thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake.
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: The waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

3. Be still, my soul: The hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot; love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: When change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

OPENING PRAYER

There are many, very many, who, inexperienced and unreasoning, suppose themselves wise enough to do anything they may wish to do. With God, their wisdom is foolishness. They need to remember that they are only children in wisdom, and that before they can know themselves, they must learn of God. Heavenly Father, I pray each of us acknowledge that without you, we, can-do no-good thing of ourselves. That it is the Holy Spirit who convicts us, gives us wisdom, and directs our path. Lord help us to deny self and let us pray daily; More of you less of me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

What Does Agape Love Really Mean in the Bible?

"Agape" is one of several Greek words for love. When the word "agape" is used in the Bible, it refers to a pure, willful, sacrificial love that intentionally desires another's highest good.



"I love chocolate," we say, and "I love you." Obviously, the love we have for a significant other, a favorite food, and a friend are all different (hopefully). However, the English language does not lend itself well to making these distinctions.

The Greek language used in the [Bible](#), however, does make those distinctions. Even though the various Greek words for love are all translated to the same English word in most instances, they held different meanings for the Greek-speaking readers.

This differentiation can be helpful for us to think about what love means, especially in discussing the highest form of love, *agape* love.

[Types of Love](#)

Though sources such as *Psychology Today* identify [seven types](#) of Greek words for love, so we will focus on the four most commonly identified.

STORAGE

Storge might also be called affection or familial **love**. This word is not actually used in the Bible, but the concept is there. *Storge* is based on familiarity. A person will **love** their family regardless of whether they are people the person would be drawn to otherwise; family members often have nothing in common except familiarity and blood.

Storge is a comfortable affection that can be taken for granted, but it can also be immensely powerful.

EROS

Eros is romantic love. *Eros* also is not a word that appears in the Bible, though it plays a major role in a lot of Old Testament problems. *Eros* encompasses sexual and romantic **love** and is the root word of the English "erotic." Lovers are often completely preoccupied with one another, filled with *eros*.

Eros is often associated with sexual desire and lust, but it can also be a good thing in a marriage relationship when accompanied by and bolstering with other kinds of **love**.

PHILIA

Philia is friendship **love**. *Philia* occurs from bonding over similar interests. Whereas lovers are both preoccupied with each other, friends are both preoccupied with the same things. Friends, of course, care about one another, but it is similar interests that attract them to one another. "*Philia*" is the opposite of "phobia," literally meaning that those experiencing *philia* are drawn to one another.

Philia is often overlooked in modern culture, but it is exhorted in the Bible. In [Romans 12:10](#), Paul urges the believers to be devoted to one another in brotherly *philia*. *Philia* can be strongly associated with *agape* as well. In [John 15:13](#), Jesus said that there is no greater *agape* than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

AGAPE

Agape could be defined as charity. However, we often think of charity nowadays as giving away money or things, which does not encompass all what *agape* is about. *Agape love* is unconcerned with the self and concerned with the greatest good of another. *Agape* is not born just out of emotions, feelings, familiarity, or attraction, but from the will and as a choice. *Agape* requires faithfulness, commitment, and sacrifice without expecting anything in return.

This is the type of *love* the Bible speaks about the most. The New Testament references *agape* over [200 times](#).

What Agape Means in the Bible

To the Greeks, proper *agape* meant a general empathy or *lovingkindness* for all people. Though in the Bible, Christians are indeed expected to care for all in the name of [Christ](#), Christianity took this a step further. Biblical writers used God as the standard for true *agape*.

Agape love, in the Bible, is *love* that comes from God. God's *love* is not sentimental; it's part of His character. God *loves* from an outpouring of who He is. As [1 John 4:8](#) states, "God is *love* [*agapos*]," meaning He is the source of *agape love*. His *love* is undeserved, gracious, and sacrificial.

We are to *love* God and others with *agape love*. *Agape* is a choice, a deliberate striving for another is the highest good, and is demonstrated through action. God set the standard for *agape love* in sending Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners.

AGAPE LOVE EXAMPLES

As has been noted, the New Testament references *agape* over 200 times. [Matthew 22:37-39](#), also known as "The Greatest Commandments," instructs us to *agapao* God and our neighbors, while [Matthew 5:43-46](#) instructs us to even *agapao* our enemies.

However, a person can also *agape* or wholeheartedly *love* the wrong things. [1 John 2:15](#) warns believers not to love the things of the world.

[1 Corinthians 13](#) lays out a list of things that define *agape*.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, 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 ([1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#)).

Though *agape* can be accompanied by other types of love, *agape* is not just a feeling, but a choice.

WHAT AGAPE MEANS FOR US

Agape love does not come naturally to us in our sinful state. However, it does come naturally to God and is an integral part of Him. By drawing closer to Him and experiencing His *love*, we are able to begin to understand what this real *love* means. Only through Him can we show and experience *agape love*.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

God is our Father, and He will teach all who come to Him, realizing that their human wisdom is foolishness. As they take hold of His strength, and make peace with Him, living by His Word, He will unite His strength with their weakness, His knowledge with their ignorance, making them strong in Him. He will give them the care adapted to their necessities. Those who trust in Him as their Teacher will not stumble or fall.