

Love is a many splendoured thing – 4

Agapé

We can't love everybody as lovers, friends, or family; but we can love them in the same way as God does, by acting for their best interests without thought for our own.

Agape-love is “supernatural,” in the sense that it goes over and above what's natural.

Agape Love values people

Agape love values people, irrespective of who they are.

When the Good Samaritan sees someone in need he doesn't ask himself, “Is he one of my sort of people?” before he helps. (Luke 10:25-37)

The value of something is set by the amount that someone is willing to pay for it. The value of human life is set by the price God is willing to pay to win us back to himself.

Agape Love wants the best for others

Agape love always wants the best for others, even when it's costly.

Agape love is love that does. You can't say that you have this kind of love for people if you don't do anything about it.

Agape Love is rooted in the love of God

Agape-love is as close as we humans ever get to the kind of love that God has for us. (Ex 34.6)

It's part of the image of God in us. That's why it isn't limited just to Christians.

Agape Love has no self-interest

Agape love seeks nothing for itself.

The other kinds of love expect something back. Agape-love doesn't expect anything back from loving other people. It's totally selfless. (Luke 14:12-14)

Take away

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no-one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully around with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket – safe, dark, motionless, airless – it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable.” (C.S. Lewis)

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Eph 5.1-2)