



5. All you need is love

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

Recently, I was thinking of one of the hit songs written by the Beatle John Lennon, "All you need is love." It seemed to offer a simple and elegant solution to all the problems of this world.

But, are we just in "love" with the idea of love or do we know the kind of love that can deliver on the statement "all you need is love"?

1. What does Scripture say about love?

The New Testament uses four Greek words to describe love and each one describes a different kind of love. Let's explore them.

2. "Storge" – natural affection or filial love

The first word is "storge" which is the natural love and affection parents feel for their children. We find examples of its contrary form in Rom 1:31 that talks of God-haters who disobey their parents as those "who have no understanding, no fidelity, no mercy, without natural affection."

3. "Philia" – brotherly love

The second word is "philia" which is love between friends who are as close as 'siblings'. We find it in John 11:36 when on seeing Jesus weep at Lazarus' funeral, "The Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

The third word is probably the one most love song writers have in mind, when they compose their love songs.

4. "Eros" – erotic love

It is "Eros" the root word for erotic.

While Eros is frequently associated with 'raw sexuality, C S Lewis explains it more in his book "The Four Loves. He describes Eros as love in the sense of "being in love" or "loving" someone, as opposed to the raw sexuality which he called Venus. The illustration Lewis uses is the difference between just 'wanting women' and wanting 'one particular woman.' But, Lewis also warned of the tendency for Eros to become a god to people who fully submit themselves to it. Love to them turns from an ideal into an idol.

And many times, into a destructive deity.

5. "Agape" – unconditional love

The fourth kind of love is "Agape" the love that exists regardless of changing circumstances. This selfless love is the greatest of the four loves, and a virtue a Christian is asked to aspire to.

“Love which is patient, kind, does not envy, does not boast, is not proud, does not dishonor others, is not self-seeking, is not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth, always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres and never fails.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Yes “All we need is agape love.” But, where can we get this love?

This kind of love can only come from God who is the source of all love.

Christians have always held the idea that ‘God’ is love. In is His very essence and being God is love.

The Bible says in 1 John 4:8, “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

So, I think we need to change the words in the Beatles song a little a bit, and sing,

“All you need is God, all you need is God

All you need is God, God,

God is all you need”

May God’s agape love fill you today!

REFLECTIVE ACTIVITY

- Can you write down five instances where you think love will NOT work in life?
- If you do have items on your list, do you think with unconditional *agape* love it may work?
- Pray, asking God to fill your heart with His agape love so that you can share it with everyone you meet.

LOVE NEVER FAILS (1 Corinth 13:8)

"Agape is loving a person for exactly who they are - not who we hope they'll become with enough fixing. It's this idea that every person has their layers, so you can never confine a person to only what you know about them from the first glance. It's stacked on the premise that to love anyone is to hope in them always." (Hannah Brencher)

"The only way love can last a lifetime is if it's unconditional. The truth is this: love is not determined by the one being loved but rather by the one choosing to love." (Stephen Kendrick)

"When one has once fully entered the realm of love, the world - no matter how imperfect - becomes rich and beautiful, it consists solely of opportunities for love." (Søren Kierkegaard)

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