



REAL
LOVE



(Eros and Agape)

1 Cor 7:1-5

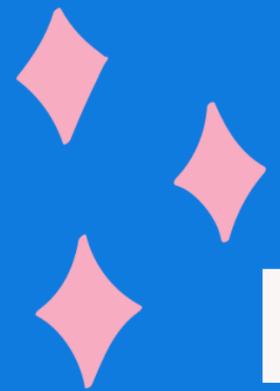


Concerning Married Life

7 Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” **2** But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. **3** The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. **4** The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. **5** Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.



1 Corinthians 13:3



**If I give all I possess to the poor
and give over my body to
hardship that I may boast,[a] but
do not have love, I gain nothing.**



Relationship defines a man more than anything you can think. They describe a man better than his written biography. When a man says I love you, it could mean many things; however, that is the language commonly used by everyone, which may not be the real love and this is why we must go back to the scripture to see what the real love is.

Eros: the word often used to express sexual love or the feelings of arousal that are shared between people who are physically attracted to one another. Eros is the Greek term that describes romantic or sexual love; however, you cannot directly find the Greek word eros itself in the Bible.





Possibilities of sexual attractions without genuine Love of Eros

2 Samuel 13: 1-18 New Living Translation

“1 Now David’s son Absalom had a beautiful sister named Tamar. And Amnon, her half brother, fell desperately in love with her. 2 Amnon became so obsessed with Tamar that he became ill. She was a virgin, and Amnon thought he could never have her.

5 “Well,” Jonadab said, “I’ll tell you what to do. Go back to bed and pretend you are ill. When your father comes to see you, ask him to let Tamar come and prepare some food for you. Tell him you’ll feel better if she prepares it as you watch and feeds you with her own hands.”

8 When Tamar arrived at Amnon’s house, she went to the place where he was lying down so he could watch her mix some dough. Then she baked his favorite dish for him. 9 But when she set the serving tray before him, he refused to eat. “Everyone get out of here,” Amnon told his servants. So they all left.

10 Then he said to Tamar, “Now bring the food into my bedroom and feed it to me here.” So Tamar took his favorite dish to him. 11 But as she was feeding him, he grabbed her and demanded, “Come to bed with me, my darling sister

14 But Amnon wouldn’t listen to her, and since he was stronger than she was, he raped her. 15 Then suddenly Amnon’s love turned to hate, and he hated her even more than he had loved her. “Get out of here!” he snarled at her.



Apostle Paul addressed the same issue of sex outside marriage in 1 Cor 7:1-5 NLT

7 Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, it is good to abstain from sexual relations. [a] 2 But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband.

“There is so much sexual immorality.....” This is a reflection of our society today.

- Sex between unmarried people**
- Sex between animals (Paul addressed Immorality between human's vs 2)**

Biblical Perspectives of Eros

Eros is portrayed in the Old Testament to express the physical and sensual intimacy between a husband and a wife. God often uses marriage illustration as a prototype relationship he has with his people. The Bible is God's love letter to man and especially his Church.

Eros is slightly different than the word "erotic" because we often associate "erotic" with ideas or practices that are not appropriate (erotica, which is defined as a state of sexual arousal). Instead, eros described the healthy, common expressions of physical love.

1. To the unmarried: God want the unmarried to either be self-controlled or get married

1 Cor 7:1-2 and VS 8-9.

Hebrews 13:4 NIV

4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

2. To the Married:

a. Do not deny each other of your body 1 Cor 7:3-5

b. Let's keep the fire burning within our marriage.



Song of Solomon 7:9-9

6 Oh, how beautiful you are!

How pleasing, my love, how full of delights! 7 You are slender like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters of fruit. 8 I said, "I will climb the palm tree and take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like grape clusters, and the fragrance of your breath like apples.9 May your kisses be as exciting as the best wine.

c. Married couple are also encouraged to have self-control (feelings under the influence of the Holy Spirit) 1 Cor 7:5.



The Agape Love

This is God's divine love or unconditional love that is self-sacrificing. It focuses on the will, not the emotions, experiences, or libido. It is the love that God showed to us in sending his Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.



God loves us unconditionally

Romans 5:6-8 NIV

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16 NIV

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 15:13 NIV

13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.



Ephesians 5:25-30 NIV

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing[a] her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

A picture of God's love for the church is illustrated between Prophet Hosea and his prostitute wife, Gomer.



The Picture of God's Agape Love

1. Hosea's marriage to a prostitute named Gomer

Hosea 1:2-3 NIV'

'2 When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, "Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord." 3 So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

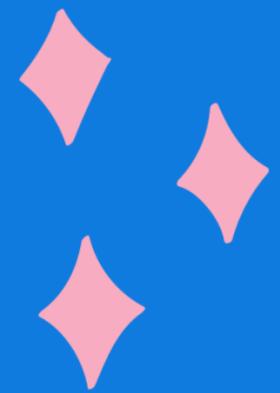
Hosea 3:1-4 NIV'

3 The Lord said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes."

2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels[a] of silver and about a homer and a lethek[b] of barley. 3 Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you."

4 For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. 5 Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings in the last days.



 **God's love will wash your dirty part and wipe you up.**

Jesus demonstrated God's agape love by washing the dirtiest part of his disciples' body, their feet, though giving us an example of service to one another (John 13:4-9)



2. The Prodigal son:

Luke 15:11-24

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found



***God is still chasing after us – The mixture of his Agape and Eros.**

Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV

22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.



Our Response to the Agape Love – 1 Cor 13

1. Love can build our home, church etc. more than a Spiritual gift that lacks love 1 Cor 13:1-2,8 NIV

“ 1 If I speak in the tongues[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 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 do not have love, I am nothing. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge,”.

2. To be open to the Lord to teach us true love and how we are falling short of his definition of Love – You could give without true Love: 1 Cor 13:3 NIV

“3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing”.



3. It is an everlasting love between God and his Children.

Romans 8:35-39 NIV

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." [a] 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, [b] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord



Biblical definition of Love – 1 Cor 13:4-13

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5  does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 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. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 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 the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a 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.

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



CONCLUSION:

Eros love can only be expressed within marriage, between husband and his wife. The Love of God for us is deeper than what we can feel or touch and the scriptures made it clear that God's love for us is 100% unconditional. That is why God wants us to emulate his love pattern and drop our ideology of unscriptural love.

