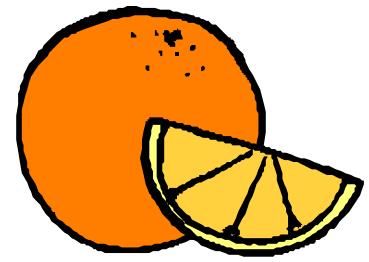


# Spirit Fruit



1 fruit 9 segments

## 1. LOVE

1 John 4 v 7 - 21

The English language consists of around 750,000 main words. Add to that, all the technical, medical and other words and the count goes up dramatically to around four to five million words. Yet, with such a wide variety, there is only one word in the English language for love. In other languages such as German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and French there are six or seven words to choose from.

In the New Testament there were four Greek words to describe love...



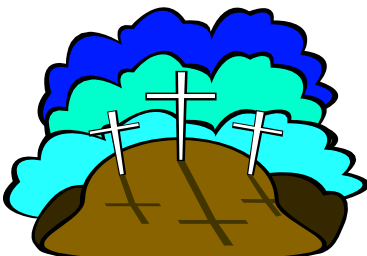
Eros – romantic, sexual, physical love, married love.



Storge – family love



Phileo – friendship



Agape – divine, unconditional love

## 1. The source of Agape love



1 John 4 v 7 – 8

The Greek word used throughout this passage is Agape or Agapao

Agape describes God-love, the love that God has and which comes only from Him

Agapao speaks of the will and the joy that comes from showing God's love to others

1 John 4 v 7 – 8 shows us where agape love originates

- love comes from God v7
- love is found in those born of God v7
- love is God and God is love v8

This scripture shows us many things about agape love...

- we need to share agape with each other v7 / 11 / 20 / 21
- lack of sharing shows a lack of knowledge of God v8
- God showed us what agape love is by sending Jesus v9
- God showed us agape love before we knew it v10
- God is known and shown by agape love v12
- anyone who truly confesses Christ, should know agape v15 – 16
- love is the identifying characteristic of a Christian v17
- agape love is the witness of a true believer v17
- agape love drives out fear (of the day judgment) v18
- agape love declares us perfect before God v18



### 3. The standard of Agape



John 3 v 16

This is arguably the best known verse in the bible and yet it is also the basis not only of our salvation but of agape love.

God loved (agape)

God gave

God forgave

Many people love enough to give, fewer give without expecting any form of recompense, even fewer give and forget, but only God gave freely, forgetting the debt and forgave the one to whom he gave – that is the standard of agape love.

There is nowhere better, to see the highest standard of Agape than in the willing sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary.

Agape love was the defining factor in the death of Jesus

- It was agape love that motivated God to send His son      John 3 v 16
- It was not a crime which led him to the cross      John 18 v 38
- Agape love sought no revenge, only forgiveness      Luke 23 v 34
- Agape love led a man to salvation while on the cross      Luke 23 v 43
- Agape love, is willing love      John 19 v 18
- The standard of Agape love is set      John 15 v 13



#### 4. The sharing of Agape

Jesus showed us what true agape love is and that we are the recipients of its benefits.

However, agape love is not for keeping but for sharing.



John 13 v 34

The word used for new in this verse does not speak of new, numerically, but qualitatively. It is not saying that this is commandment number 11 (numerically), but this is a better commandment (qualitatively).

A command to walk in agape love, unconditional love easily encompasses all other laws because if you love in the way that God loves, it would be impossible to break any of the ten commandments as found in Exodus chapter 20...

- I. you shall have no other gods before me
- II. you shall not make for yourself an idol
- III. you shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God
- IV. remember the Sabbath day be keeping it holy
- V. honor your father and your mother
- VI. your shall not murder
- VII. you shall not commit adultery
- VIII. you shall not steal
- IX. you shall not give false testimony against your neighbour
- X. you shall not covet you neighbour's house or any thing else

It is clear to see that, if a person is living in agape love, it would be impossible to break any of the above commandments





## EROS

Eros was used in a Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint around 250 years before Christ.

At that time, eros was chosen because it was seen as a beautiful word to describe sexual love and physical passion between a man and a woman. However, within 200 years, the word had become soiled and had become a lurid expression. This translation has remained with us until this day in words such as erotic and erotica, speaking of unsavory sexual desire.

William Barclay describes eros as *'a word for love that never got converted'*<sup>1</sup>

However, eros was used in the Old Testament and particularly in the Song of Solomon to describe the right kind of relationships and sexual desires between male and female.

People objected to its new usage, so it disappeared.

## STORGE

Storge never made the English language, which is a shame, because it speaks of family love, both in the sense of a human family and the Christian family.

We get the feel of storge in Romans 12 v 10 'be devoted to one another'. The word translated here as devoted is 'philostorgos' from two words 'philos' (fondness) and storge (to cherish).

We need to remember, that in bible times, the family unit was seen as much more important as it is today, so Paul says that we should love, respect and take pride in, our Christian family, as much, if not more, that we do in our natural family.

Storge speaks against arguments, gossip, back-biting or any other form of behaviour that would hurt or offend a family member.

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<sup>1</sup> *'New Testament Words'*, William Barclay, Westminster Press, 1964

## PHILEO

Phileo is the emotional side of love, the feelings that we have when we truly love another and so it speaks of love for a friend.

In John 11 we read the story of Lazarus' death and a message was sent to Jesus 'Lord, the one you love is sick' (v3). Verse 35 is the shortest verse in the bible 'Jesus wept' and in v36 'the Jews said "see how he loved him"'. The word used in verses 3 and 36 is Phileo

In the moving passage we get an insight of true phileo love as experienced in the heart of Jesus.

In John 21 v 15 – 17 Jesus asked Simon Peter if he loved Jesus, 3 times...

v15 Simon do you Agape me            You know that I Phileo you

v16 do you Agape me                You know that I Phileo you

v17 do you Phileo me                You know that I Phileo you

1 Cor 13 v 6 love does not delight (cheerful. happy) in evil (the opposite to justice – injustice) by rejoices (sympathize with gladness – congratulate) with the truth (truth / reality)