

WHAT'S LOVE? Lenny Santee

TEXT: 1 Cor. 13:1-8.

A. We hear the word "love" used a lot.

1. People fall in love.
2. They love their dog.
3. They love their car, house, children, even pizza.

B. Just what is love?

1. Tina Turner had a song in which she said that love was "just a second-hand emotion."

Tom T. Hall "I Love"

I Love little baby ducks,
Old pickup trucks,
Slow movin' trains - and rain.
I Love little country streams,
Sleep without dreams,
Sunday school in May - and hay.
And I love you too.

I Love - leaves in the wind,
Pictures of my friends,
Birds of the world - and squirrels.
I Love - coffee in a cup,
Little fuzzy pups,
Old TV shows- and snow
And I love you too.

I Love honest open smiles,
Kisses from a child,
Tomatoes on the vine - and onions.
I Love winners when they cry,
Losers when they try,
Music when it's good - and life.
And I love you too.

Old pick-up truck, hay, an onion, and a slow moving train and you!

3. Is it that warm feeling you had when you first meet your wife or husband.

C. Love is certainly a biblical subject.

1. Within the NKJV love is used 322 times.
 2. In every book in the N.T. except the book of Acts.
 3. Some of the subjects: brotherly love, Christ's love, the Father's love for His son and for us, love of our enemies, love for God, Christ and even the church and our native land.
- D. Because there is so much confusion and much misuse of this word we need to study from the Bible, "What's Love". This lesson will define the various words translated love in the Bible. Greeks had four words for love.
- I. EROS.
- A. This Greek word does not appear in the New Testament but was used in the LXX- Greek version of the Old Testament and is implied.
 - B. This is the word the world uses when it talks of making love.
 - C. From the beginning God intended man to be a sexual being-
 1. Gen. 2:23 -24 "And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
 2. Prov. 5:18-20 "Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love. For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?"
 3. Heb. 13:4. Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
- II. PHILEO.
- A. Translated kiss, love, friendship. Have affections for.
 - B. Tender affection, love your sister or brother-Luke 7:6 Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends (PHILEO) to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof.
 - C. Lk. 11:5-8. 5 And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, `Friend, lend me three loaves; `for a friend of mine

has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

D. Might be better translated -like- Matt. 10:37. •He who loves (*phileo*) likes father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

E. Philadelphia- get their name from this word.

III. THELO.

A. Translated- desire, intend, wish, to be inclined to would like to.

B. Some uses of the word:

1. Matt. 17:4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish (*thelo*), let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

2. Lk. 10:29; 23:20. •But he, wanting (*thelo*) to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 23:20 Pilate, therefore, wishing (*thelo*) to release Jesus, again called out to them.

3. 1 Tim. 5:11 But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire (*thelo*) to marry,

4. Heb. 13:18 Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring (*thelo*) to live honorably

5. Gal. 4:20. •I would like (*thelo*) to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

C. We use the word this way, "We would love it if you came for a visit."

IV. AGAPE.

A. "The characteristic word of Christianity".

B. Used to describe the attitude of God toward:

1. His Son- Jn. 17:26 •And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love (*agape*) with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

2. The human race- Jn. 3:16. For God so loved (*agape*) the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

3. All who believe on Jesus Christ- Jn. 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves (*agape*) Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.

C. Used to express the essential nature of God- 1 Jn. 4:8 He who does not love (*agape*) does not know God, for God is love (*agape*)

D. Conveys God will to His children about their attitude toward:

1. Each other- Jn. 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love (*agape*) one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

2. Toward all men.

a. 1 Thess. 3:12. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,

b. 1 Cor. 16:24. 16:24 My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

c. 2 Pet. 1:7. to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

3. Even our enemies- Matt. 5:44. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

E. Defined "To love, value, esteem, feel or manifest generous concern for, be faithful towards."

F. This love can be known only from the actions it prompts.

G. 1 Cor. 13:13 tells us that love is greater than faith or hope. **And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**

CONCLUSION:

John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Do YOU love the Lord?