

ATTENTION
Business Meeting: today, January 12, 2:30 pm

Love

Agape is an ancient Greek word that refers to a type of love that is often described as unconditional, selfless, and sacrificial:

- **Unconditional:** Agape love is given freely and without expecting anything in return.
- **Selfless:** Agape love is concerned with the good of others, not the self.
- **Sacrificial:** Agape love is willing to sacrifice for the benefit of others.

January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher: Vacant

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Indio Informer

***"Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding."***
Proverb 3:5

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- ***"Fight the good fight"***
- ***"Keep the faith"***
- ***"Finish the course"***

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

By Jon Mitchell

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing." 1 Corinthians 13 :1-3

You know, loving Jesus is all about obeying His commandments (John 14:15, 21, 23-24). Those of us who truly love God will do our best to obey all that He has commanded of us in His Word. We will preach His gospel without changing it in any way. We will worship Him the way He told us to. We will go to church and be a part of the right church. We will be evangelistic, benevolent, church-going, Bible-reading, praying people. And that's a good thing.

However, it is very possible for us to, without realizing it, start to do all of these things that God has told us to do...without love. We might start sharing the gospel with people for no other reason than filling the pews and increasing the contribution, with the saving of their souls never even being a major factor in our minds. We might start worshipping God ritualistically in the way He told us during the worship hour and treat our brethren badly after the final "amen"

(James 3:9-12). We might be very faithful in our church attendance, be involved in a lot of charitable organizations and functions, read our Bibles every day and pray every night...and do it all without real, agape love for all our fellow man. And if that is the case, how long will it take before we lose our love for God? Not long (Matthew 15:7-9).

What is real, true love? Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. It's patience. Kindness. It's not envy. It's not pride. It's not rude. It's not selfish. It's not irritable. It's not resentful. It's not happy when wrong is done. It's happy when truth occurs. It is willing to bear all things. It gives others the benefit of the doubt first. It always hopes for the best. It is willing to endure for a very, very long time.

Sounds like God's love, doesn't it? That's how God wants us to be...like Him (2 Peter 1:4).

Want to Consider Others?

Here are a few Scriptures to motivate us to consider others...

Philippians 2:3-4 *"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."*

James 4:17 *"So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, for him it is sin."*

Psalms 82:3 *"Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute."*

Galatians 6:10 *"So then, while we have opportunity, let's do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."*

1 John 3:17 *"But whoever has worldly goods and sees his brother or sister in need, and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God remain in him?"*

A Religion of Relationships

By Edd Sterchi

Too many people claim or act like Christianity is simply a religion of beliefs. And while belief is a crucial part of Christianity, it is much more than that. I contend that Christianity is a religion of relationships.

Take a look at John 15, for example. In verses 1-11 we can see that Jesus is the vine and individual Christians are the branches. To be productive, the branches must maintain a relationship with the vine where they draw nutrients and support. Thus, we must sustain a proper relationship with Christ to draw spiritual sustenance and produce fruit for Him. We must read and learn from His word and stay close to Him by walking with Him and living the way He leads.

Now take a look at verses 12-17 in John 15. There we see that not only are we to have a relationship with Jesus, but we are to have a relationship with "one another." We are to love one another. The word translated "love" in this passage is the verb form of "agape." This is an unselfish, giving type of love that always does what is best for the other. This type of love cannot be practiced without being involved in one another's lives. We must spend time with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We must develop a close relationship with them.

Yes, Christianity is about relationships – relationship with the Lord and with His people. It is then we will be joyful and productive. What is our Christianity a religion of?

Speaker for Today

Thank you, Glauco Gonzales