



MARK
12:28-34

Love in the New Testament

- **Eros** (used 0x in NT) - physical or romantic love
- **Storge** (used 0x in NT) - family love/affection
- **Phileo** (used 55x in NT) - affectionate love characteristic of friendship; warm and merited
- **Agape** (used 253x in NT) - unmerited self-giving love; seeks the good of another regardless of cost to self and regardless of worthiness of the other




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Love in the New Testament

- **Seen most clearly in Incarnation and Crucifixion of Jesus:** This is love: not that we loved God, but He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins – 1John 4.10.

Two distinctive elements of NT love:

- **Self-giving:** This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us – 1John 3.16.
- **Gracious:** God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us – Romans 5.8.



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Love of God

Obedience is evidence of love

- **1 John 5.3:** this is love for God: to keep His commands
- **John 14.15:** If you love Me, keep My commands.

Commands – follow Jesus and love people, particularly fellow Christians

- **1John 3.23:** And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us.
- **John 15.12:** My command is this: love each other as I have loved you.



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Love of Others

- **In general:** To seek the good (welfare) of others regardless of the cost to self and regardless of the worthiness of the other
- **In specifics, requires discernment:**
 - **Who is our neighbor?** From the Good Samaritan - our neighbor is anyone we come across in need
 - How to love our neighbor in a world where everyone is (potentially) our neighbor???
 - **What is 'need?'**
 - **What is 'the good?'**



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Love of Others

- Simple framework:
- Ask God to give you eyes to see need around you
- When you see need ask God what love looks like in that particular instance, keeping in mind:
 - **love is gracious** - focused on the good of the other regardless of their merit
 - **love is self-giving** – focused on the good of the other even if it costs us something personally



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Holy Spirit, search me and know me. Show me any places in my heart where I am loving the world or the things of the world.

- **Lust of the flesh** – cravings of our sinful nature
- **Lust of the eyes** – coveting what we see
- **Pride of life** – boasting (internally or externally) in what we have (possessions) and what we do (achievements)

- 1John 2.15-16



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God, I pray that out of Your glorious riches
You may strengthen me with power through
Your Holy Spirit in my inner being – in my
heart, in my mind, and in my soul, so that
Jesus may dwell in my heart through faith.



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And I pray that I, being rooted and established in Your love, may have power, together with all Your holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus for me, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that I may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of Your love.

- **Ephesians 3.16-19**