

How Am I To Love Others?

1 John 4:7-12

Do you have a LOVE for People that goes Beyond Appearances?

HOW are Christians to Maintain a Love for People the way God Expects?

The Bible mentions FOUR KINDS of LOVE we experience in our lives.

1. EROS – Sensual Love.
2. PHILEO – Friendship Love.
3. SURGASE – Family Love.
4. AGAPE – God's Love.

HOW do I develop/nurture/keep God's AGAPE Love in my relationships?

1. RECEIVE GODS LOVE (vv.9-10)

- Before we can Exhibit Agape' Love, we **MUST** Accept the Greatest Love of all...the Love of GOD.
- One of the Greatest Setbacks in Relationships today is that **one or both** does **NOT** have an Abiding Relationship with God.
- Once we're Persuaded of God's love for US, THEN we can MODEL that love in our relationships with OTHERS. (Romans 8:38-39)

2. RECIPROCATE GODS LOVE (vv. 7-8)

- That which we Perceive & Receive we must **also** SHARE with other people.
- John delivers a God-given Mandate to Exhibit God's love to Other People. (vv.7-8; Rom 5:8)
- God loves us when we don't Deserve it, don't Return it & don't Appreciate it...AND...He calls US to do the SAME!

3. IMITATE GOD'S LOVE (v.10)

- The **only way** Agape Functions Properly is through Self-Sacrifice.
- Agape' love is NOT a Sentiment...it's an act of the WILL. (Ephesians 5:25)
- As we begin to IMITATE God's love others WILL Respond & our relationships will **Grow Stronger** & we will have Greater Influence.

4. DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE (vv. 11-12)

- To Enjoy Relationships...we must Demonstrate GOD'S love to one another.
- At times, we feel **SO Unworthy** of God's love
- Have you **ever been Convicted** of DOUBTING God's Love for YOU?
- **Many Christians need STOP Doubting** God's Love & TAKE God's Love SERIOUSLY!
- **Despite their Faults**, we must Endure with others in LOVE.