

ADVENT 2024
What Is Love? - 12/22/24
Romans 8:38-39

- I. Four Types of Love in the Bible
 - Philia = the love between friends, or the care and respect for people in need
 - Eros = the love found in romantic relationships
 - Storge = the love between family members
 - Agape = unconditional, sacrificial love
- II. Jesus Demonstrated God's Love for Us
 - He taught that "God so loved the world" (John 3:16)
 - He healed people and released them from their torment
 - He taught that God's Kingdom (his presence) is near to all
 - He sacrificed himself for our benefit
- III. God is Infinite and so is His Love
 - His love is...
 - ... Unconditional
 - ... Eternal
 - ... Unfathomable
 - ... Unstoppable
 - ... Completely Compassionate
 - ... Always present
 - ... Faithful
 - ... Accessible through faith
- IV. Our Responsibility to Love
 - We must show others the same kind of love God shows us
 - Agape love is a decision, not based on feelings
 - We have been loved to love others

Christmas is about changed people changing other people's lives through acts of love – unconditional and sacrificial love.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalms 136:26 - O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Ephesians 3:18-19 - I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Agape love is a choice we make to act in ways that benefit others even if we don't feel loving towards them.

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A Poem by Ann M. Johnson – *Your Steadfast Love*

Your steadfast love O Lord never ceases to amaze me
My mind is in a state of awe at the vastness of your love
The vastness of your love could cover mountains at just a
thought from you.

If I were to count the amount of love you have for your children it would outnumber the stars and outweigh the grains of sand.

Just to think that your love existed before we came to be
If all your love was revealed, if all creation declared it, if all nature proclaimed it, the oceans would drown in your love for your love is far deeper and your love is wider than the sky, for the sky is but a mere breath in comparison to your love.