

# Love Power

## Part 1

The most powerful force in the earth today is the positive (agape) unconditional love that resides in the heart of every believer.

Romans 5:5 NLT

For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love...

We are, instructed by God to love EVERYONE and we are empowered by God to demonstrate Love (agape) to EVERYONE. Opinions, ideas about WHAT LOVE is may vary, THEREFORE It is imperative we know the characteristics of the God kind of love given in the word of GOD.

IN THESE LESSONS WE WILL DISCUSS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LOVE (agape) GIVEN IN I CORINTHIANS 13:1-8.

### THREE KEY GREEK WORDS FOR LOVE

**Phileo** – Care and Friendship; family and friends based on conditions of likes or dislikes; Common things you enjoy. Partnership. This love responds based on what you receive in the relationship. (YOU CAN NOT BE A FRIEND TO EVERYONE BUT YOU CAN BE FRIENDLY TO EVERYONE. WARM GREETINGS, RESPECTFUL TO EVERYONE.

Romans 12:10 ERV

Love each other in a way that makes you feel close like brothers and sisters. And give each other more honor than you give yourself.

**Eros** – Passionate and Sensual; love between husband and wife.

1 Corinthians 7:1-5 NLT

Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, it is good to abstain from sexual relations. [2] But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband. [3] The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. [4] The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife. [5] Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

**Agape** – Unconditional desire to give withholding nothing that is necessary for the good of someone. Not based on what the giver receives or doesn't receive. A choice to love not because someone loves you. The God kind of love that can never end neither does it have limitations. God kind of love is not based on natural feelings but is always a choice. "I choose to love you." When Agape is a fact it is always Expressed in an act.

Everything we communicate and all the acts of service we perform must be done from a heart of the God kind of love. Without love, our efforts are empty and unfruitful. In his letter to the church at Corinth the Apostle Paul gives us the characteristics of the God kind of love (agape).

1 Corinthians 13:1-8,13 NLT

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] if I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of god's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. [3] if I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. [4] love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud [5] or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. [6] it does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. [7] love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. [8] prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! [13] three things will last forever-faith, hope, and love-and the greatest of these is love.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GOD KIND OF LOVE**

**The God Kind of Love – is Longsuffering** – Patient with others. Not quick to give up but understands that people are individuals with different personalities and growth patterns they refuse to give up if a person doesn't quickly respond. They consider how God has not given up on them, but he is patient in his dealing with them. Do not give up on your spouse, children, family, and those in the church God has called you to mentor. Express love for them by praying for them and words to build them up.

**The God Kind of Love – is Kind** – The word kind means to be adaptable or compliant to the needs of others. You do not expect others to be like you, but you seek to understand them by identifying with who they are. A willing to change, in order to meet the needs of others. Paul says I am all things that I might win some to Christ. This is not to say we do unrighteous acts, but we seek to understand the person so that we can be effective in serving them. Remember hurting people hurt people.

**The God Kind of Love – Does Not Envy** – It is not, consumed with his own desires and plans. Not self-centered and ambitiously uses others for their advantage but is concerned about what is best for others first. Are you committed to seeing others blessed and successful or is your success and personal agenda first?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS-

1. Define the God kind of love (AGAPE)
2. DESCRIBE one of the characteristics of love given in THIS LESSON
3. Why are you able to love everyone?

Pray the following prayer of consecration:

**Note:** Facilitators pray this prayer and have the circle members repeat after you.

### Prayer

*Father, I pray that your love that is in my heart flows out to others. I realize that I can easily become selfish, self-centered, and impatient with others apart from the Holy Spirit working in my life. Father by the power of Holy Spirit who lives in my heart teach me how to love others consistently as a lifestyle. I pray in Jesus Name.*