



“LOVE’S TOP FIVE!”

> **The word LOVE is found 387 times in the Scriptures.** The Bible records the greatest love story ever written, which is God's unconditional love by sending His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross (John 3:16; 1 John 4:10) for sinners. Love is not only one of God's attributes; it is also an essential part of His nature. The Bible declares "**God is love,**" (1 John 4:8,16). God's love is **everlasting** (Jeremiah 31:3), **free** (Hosea 14:4), **sacrificial** (John 3:16), and **enduring** (John 13:1).

> **LOVE DEFINED: There's four different Greek words for our English word LOVE:**

- **STORGE** - This love has its basis in one's **nature**, a natural affection or obligation. It is a natural movement of the soul for husband, wife, child or dog. It is quiet, abiding feeling within a person that rests on something close to them and that they **feel** good about.

- **EROS** - This love is **erotic** love. Eros is a love of passion, an overmastering passion that seizes and absorbs itself into the mind. It is a love that is an emotional involvement based on body chemistry. The basic idea of the love is self-satisfaction. Though "eros" is directed towards another, it actual has self in mind. For example, "I love you because you make me happy." The foundation of this type of love is some characteristic in the other person which pleases you. If the characteristic would cease to exist, the reason of the love would be gone, the result, "I don't love you anymore." "Eros" looks for what it can receive. If it does give, it gives in order to receive. If it fails to get what it wants or expects, **bitterness or resentment could develop.** The philosophy of "eros" is that being loved depends on being attractive in some way to another person. Because of this dependency, "eros" would be considered a **conditional type of love.**

- **PHILEO** - is a **companionable** love. This love speaks of affection, fondness, or liking. Kenneth Wuest, the Greek Scholar, says, "It is a love that is called out of one's heart as a response to the **pleasure** one takes in a person or object. "Phileo" is a love that responds to kindness, appreciation, or love. It involves giving as well as receiving; but when it is greatly strained, it can collapse in a crisis. This love is called out of one's heart by qualities in another.

- **AGAPE** - Is called out of one's heart by the preciousness of the object loved. It is a love of esteem, of evaluation. It has the idea of prizing. It is the noblest word for love in the Greek language. "Agape" is not kindled by the merit of worth of its object, but it originates in its own God-given nature. **God is love.** It delights in giving. **This love keeps on loving even when the loved one is unresponsive, unkind, unlovable, and unworthy.** It is unconditional love. "Agape" desires only the **good** of the one loved. It is a consuming passion for the well-being of others. There are only a few known occurrences of this word for love outside of the Bible. It is used approximately three hundred and twenty times in the New Testament. Bible scholar Warren Wiersbe gives us a word to the wise, "*We are to worship God, love people and use things, but too often we use people, love self, and worship things.*"

Jesus said in John 13:34-35 - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

> **LOVE'S TOP FIVE:**

#1 – WORDS OF AFFIRMATION – Encouragement, compliments, appreciation, edification, being positive, sweet-talking, love communication! (Thumbs up!) Ephesians 4:29-32 - *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

#2 – QUALITY TIME – Giving someone your undivided attention, togetherness, going out on a date, spending time together, sharing thoughts and feelings. (You're Number 1!) (John Ch. 21)

#3 – GIVING – To some a gift is an expression of love, blessing or gratitude. It represents a sense of value and an act of kindness. Jesus said in Luke 6:38 – “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” Acts 20:35 - ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Shaka!)

#4 – ACTS OF SERVICE – Doing things, daily chores, projects for one another, sharing the load in all things of life and family. Make a list and “JUST DO IT!” for each other! Galatians 5:13 says, “Through love serve one another.” Matthew 20:26-28 – “whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Jesus our example - John 13:3-17) (Hands out!)

#5 – PHYSICAL TOUCH – Hugging, holding hands, rub the back and neck, sitting next to each other, kisses, romance, etc. (Body Ministry!) (The Song of Solomon Chapter 4)

> 1 Corinthians 13:4-13 - *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. **And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.***