

Love

What is Love? Do any of us really know? Of Course we do! Most of us use that word many times each day. But it seems to have almost as many meanings as there are people using the word. From a Christian perspective, however, there are only two real categories of Love. God love and human love.

God Love, agape love is always unconditional. It is one-sided in that it doesn't have to be returned in order to be kept alive, or to be kept being initiated (I will love you no matter what you do to me).

Human love is conditional. It is based on what we think, feel and desire. It is based on some particular circumstances, and it is based on the other person's response to you.

Human love is two-sided, because it must be returned in order to be kept alive.

God Love is a freeing love, because it frees the lover from expectations and presumptions.

Human love is a bondage love because it puts the lover in the bondage of expectations, and also forces the one loved to respond from his or her defenses and not the heart.

God love is other centered love, because it puts the other's interests before it's own.

Human love is always self-centered because it always puts itself above everyone else even though the lover may not be aware of it.

As we can see, and would expect, God operates from a plain far above that of man and the manner of His love clearly reflects that difference. Yet God's love is available to everyone who is willing to strip him or herself of all thoughts, emotions and desires

which are contrary to God. In this way we become open vessels and conduits through which He wants to pour out His love through us to others. Once this state is achieved in the one so blessed, there is an unimaginable joy and peace and oneness with Jesus as that love not only flows through to others but also permeates every fiber of our own being. As humans, we are not capable of sustaining such a state but continually let it slip away as our self asserts itself. However, once this agape love, the love that Jesus makes available to us, is expressed, nothing less is ever again sufficient in our lives.