



LEARNING TO LOVE ST.CROIX – PART 3

1 CORINTHIANS 13 (NKJV)

Original Word: ἀγαπάω, *agapaō*

Usage Notes: and the corresponding noun *agapē* (B, No. 1 below) present "the characteristic word of Christianity, and since the Spirit of revelation has used it to express ideas previously unknown, inquiry into its use, whether in Greek literature or in the Septuagint, throws but little light upon its distinctive meaning in the NT., however, Cp., Lev. 19:18; Deut. 6:5.

"*Agapē* and *agapaō* are used in the NT (a) to describe the attitude of God toward His Son, John 17:26; the human race, generally, John 3:16; Rom 5:8; and to such as believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, particularly, John 14:21; (b) to convey His will to His children concerning their attitude one toward another, John 13:34, and toward all men, 1 Thess. 3:12; 1 Cor. 16:14; 2 Pet. 1:7; (c) to express the essential nature of God, 1 John 4:8.

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament and New Testament Words.



"Love can be known only from the actions it prompts. God's love is seen in the gift of His Son, 1 John 4:9, 10. But obviously this is not the love of complacency, or affection, that is, it was not drawn out by any excellency in its objects, Rom. 5:8. It was an exercise of the Divine will in deliberate choice, made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself, Cp., Deut. 7:7, 8.

"Love had its perfect expression among men in the Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Cor. 5:14; Eph. 2:4; Eph. 3:19; Eph. 5:2; Christian love is the fruit of His Spirit in the Christian, Gal. 5:22.

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"Christian love has God for its primary object, and expresses itself first of all in implicit obedience to His commandments, John 14:15, 21, 23; John 15:10; 1 John 2:5; 1 John 5:3; 2 John 1:6. Self-will, that is, self-pleasing, is the negation of love to God.

"Christian love, whether exercised toward the brethren, or toward men generally, is not an impulse from the feelings, it does not always run with the natural inclinations, nor does it spend itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered. Love seeks the welfare of all, Rom. 15:2, and works no ill to any, Rom. 13:8-10; love seeks opportunity to do good to 'all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith,' Gal. 6:10. See further 1 Cor. 13 and Col. 3:12-14." * [* From Notes on Thessalonians, by Hogg and Vine, p. 105.]

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In respect of *agapaō* as used of God, it expresses the deep and constant "love" and interest of a perfect Being towards entirely unworthy objects, producing and fostering a reverential "love" in them towards the Giver, and a practical "love" towards those who are partakers of the same, and a desire to help others to seek the Giver.

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1. It was out of God's love (agape) for humanity that God sent His Son to die for us. (Ezekiel 18:23; John 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:9)
2. Our confession of faith comes with the confirming gift of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-25)
3. The daily Relational test with others is whether we reflect the Holy Spirit's form of love (agape) or our own. (John 15:10-13,17; 1 John 4:20-21; Matthew 5:43-48)
4. The daily Material test of whether we are Kingdom focused or World focused is expressed by our personal acquisition, use and sharing of our time, talents and treasures. (Matthew 6:19-21; 1John 2:15-17)



1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NKJV)

- 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.
- 2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
- 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.



1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NKJV)

- ⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;
- ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;
- ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
- ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.



1 Corinthians 13:8-10 (NKJV)

⁸ 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.

⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.



1 Corinthians 13:11-12 (NKJV)

- ¹¹ 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.
- ¹² 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.



1 Corinthians 13:13 (NKJV)

¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.



**NO ONE KNOWS THE AGE OF THE HUMAN RACE,
BUT IT IS SURELY OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW
HOW TO LOVE BETTER.**

