

Beauregard Worship Center



2014 DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

The Love Walk – What is it?

Introduction

- Welcome to BWC's Discipleship Training class on The Love Walk! This class will help you learn the importance of walking in the Love of God as you continue to grow into a mature Christian.
- In this class we will be discussing:
 - Definitions of Love
 - Types of Love
 - Love Connections to God
 - Characteristics of Love
 - The Christian's Requirement to Love

Definitions of Love

- Love is defined in Webster's dictionary as:
 - strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties
 - attraction based on sexual desire
 - affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests
 - an assurance of affection
 - warm attachment, enthusiasm, or devotion
 - unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another
 - brotherly concern for others

The World's Definitions of Love

- “A purpose of human life, no matter who is controlling it, is to love whoever is around to be loved.” *Kurt Vonnegut*, who was in some ways an extremist about love but also had a healthy dose of irreverence about it, in The Sirens of Titan:
- “What is love but acceptance of the other, whatever he is.” *Anais Nin*, whose wisdom on love knew no bounds, in A Literate Passion: Letters of Anais Nin & Henry Miller, 1932-1953:
- “Love, n. A temporary insanity curable by marriage.” *Ambrose Bierce*, with the characteristic wryness of The Devil's Dictionary:
- “Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get — only with what you are expecting to give — which is everything.” *Katharine Hepburn* in Me : Stories of My Life:
- “Love is an untamed force. When we try to control it, it destroys us. When we try to imprison it, it enslaves us. When we try to understand it, it leaves us feeling lost and confused.” *Paulo Coelho* in The Zahir: A Novel of Obsession

God's Definition of Love

- “So then, whatever you desire that others would do to and for you, even so do also to and for them, for this is (sums up) the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12).
- “And He replied to him; You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect). This is the great (most important principal) and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself. These two commandments sum up and upon them depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

The Definition of Love

- As we have seen, love has been defined by many people down through ages, but the most important One to define love is God Himself because He IS love.
- He IS the definition of love because He epitomizes it. All real love flows from Him and back to Him throughout the universe and the ages.
- Love is like faith. It flows from our hearts and God notices it. He is looking at each individual's "love walk" during their time on earth. Will He find love in your life?

Types of Love

- Love falls into three basic categories:
 - Phileo Love – Brotherly love
 - Eros Love – Romantic or sexual love
 - Agape Love – the God Love
- Almost every human being has experienced at least one of these types of love. I said almost because we are living in the last days where the love of many has grown cold. Real love is hard to find and there are many people who have not experienced ANY real love from anyone.
- Let's look closer at the different types of love.

The God Love or “Agape” Love

- The Greek word for the God Love is “Agape”.
 - ▣ God's type of love; the highest kind of love. AGAPE is seeking the welfare or betterment of others even if there is not affection felt.
- Who is more selfless than our Lord Jesus Christ who gave His life for us? While we were yet sinners, He gave His life for us. Jesus loved with the agape love of His Father. He showed the Father’s heart to a lost and dying world.
 - ▣ “I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another. By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves].” (John 13:34-35)

Agape Love Word Study Scriptures

- Matthew 26:39
- Mark 14:36
- Luke 22:41-42
- John 18:11
- Luke 6:35
- Romans 12:20-21
- I John 3:18
- John 13:34
- John 15:9, 12
- Proverbs 13:10



Brotherly Love or “Phileo” Love

- The Greek word for brotherly love is “Phileo”. This is where we get the word “Philadelphia”, one of our major cities. It is actually referred to as “the city of brotherly love.”
 - friendly love based on feelings or emotions. We could describe “PHILEO” love as tender affection, delighting to be in the presence of someone, or a warm or good feeling toward someone that may come and go with intensity.
- Christians are to exhibit brotherly love or phileo love to other Christians as seen in Romans 12:
 - “Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence and showing honor to one another.” (Romans 12:10)

Phileo Love Word Study Scriptures

- John 5:20
- John 11:3, 36
- John 12:25
- John 16:27
- John 20:2
- Acts 28:2
- Romans 12:10
- I Timothy 6:10
- II Timothy 3:4
- Titus 2:4
- Titus 3:4
- Hebrews 13:1
- III John 9
- Revelation 3:19

Sexual Love or “Eros” Love

- Sexual love or “Eros” love is very important to God. It symbolizes unity between two people. It symbolizes multiplication in His creation by forming another human being.
 - sexual passion; arousal, its gratification and fulfillment. This Greek word is not used in the New Testament, probably because its origin came from the mythical god Eros, the god of love. It is inferred in many scriptures and is the only kind of love that God restricts to a one-man, one-woman relationship within the bounds of marriage.
 - The Hebrew word for sexual love is “*Dalet-Ayin-Tav*”, meaning “to know,” which vividly illustrates that proper Jewish sexuality involves both the heart and mind, not merely the body.
- Notice how much more the Hebrew brings out sexual love between a husband and a wife?
 - “And Adam knew Eve as his wife, and she became pregnant and bore Cain; and she said, I have gotten and gained a man with the help of the Lord.” (Genesis 4:1)

Eros Word Study Scriptures

- Genesis 4:1
- Song of Solomon 1:13
- Song of Solomon 4:5-6
- Song of Solomon 7:7-9
- Song of Solomon 8:10
- 1 Corinthians 7:25
- Ephesians 5:31
- Hebrews 13:4



Love Connections

*Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
Then you will win favor and a
good name in the sight of
God and man.*

PROVERBS 3:3-4

*Love &
Faithfulness*

Love Connections to God

- Notice that each type of love explained here returns to God. Each is spoken of and referred to in His Word.
- All real love originates from God. It is His Heart. Love is precious and very valuable. People seek for it constantly. People long to be loved by someone.
- All people are loved by God even if they don't realize it. Even the most vile and hateful and evil people are loved by God.
- Let's look at the connections of each type of love to God.

The Agape Connection

- Agape love is the highest and most pure love that God operates in. It is literally the God love. We return God's love to Him through our worship of Him.
- God does command us to also operate in the God love to a lost and dying world. It is the primary way that He can reach people before they are sent to hell.
- Agape love looks beyond, well beyond the surface of a person. It looks into the heart and soul. It sees the pain and the potential of the person. It sees the plan for them that has been in His heart from the foundation of the world.
- If we could only grasp the agape connection and connect our lives to it, we could set the world on fire for God. That is what His Heart longs for!

The Agape Connection – Next Steps

- What can we do as individuals to begin to walk in the Agape love of God?
 - ▣ First ask Him to pour into your life MORE agape love than is already there. Remember, the Holy Spirit has shed the love of God into your heart already. Ask for more.
 - ▣ Agape love is a fruit of the Spirit; begin to cultivate it.
- As we begin to seek Him and walk in the agape love that He increases in us, He will begin to put us in places where the lost can come in!
- That is what we are here for right?

The Phileo Connection

- Phileo love is the love spoken of by Jesus that we “love one another”. People will know we are Christians by our love. It is our light and our salt.
- In a dark world, people are drawn to warm, welcoming light. They can’t help it. When people look at the love between Christian brothers and sisters, they want to be a part of it. It’s only natural!
- Phileo is our “salt” because it preserves us from the decay and corruption of the fallen world around us. As others come in to the kingdom of God, it preserves them too!

The Phileo Connection – Next Steps

- As Christians, our next step is to examine our hearts to see if we are not loving our fellow Christians as brothers and sisters in the family of God.
- How many churches across this nation are riddled with strife and division because people refuse to love their brothers and sisters?
- This should not be! We have to look **OUTWARD** to the lost and dying world and put aside our petty disputes...they **WILL** pass away eventually. Meanwhile these disputes viewed by the lost are causing them to turn away in disgust at Christianity and making a mockery of what Jesus did on the Cross!

Phileo Next Steps

- Our next step is to REPENT of any situations of strife and division between us and another Christian that we are holding on to.
 - ▣ The Bible clearly says in Matthew 5:23-24, “So if when you are offering your gift at the altar you there remember that your brother has any [grievance] against you, leave your gift at the altar and go. First make peace with your brother, and then come back and present your gift.”
 - ▣ Make every effort to make peace with the situation. If they refuse, LET IT GO! Move on and leave them in God’s hands. Pray for them daily to be reconciled to God.

Phileo Love – Next Steps

- Finally, ask the Lord how you can bless someone every day. By asking Him this, you are making yourself available for Him to show His Agape love to others!
- See how they are beginning to connect back to Him?



The Eros Connection

- How does sexual love connect back to God? It's the unity, the one-flesh unity that God Himself put together for a man and a woman and is perhaps the most spiritually powerful union known to mankind.
- Marital unity between a man and a woman symbolizes the unity between the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is or should be the strongest bond outside the Trinity. A truly unified husband and wife are a force to be reckoned with in the spirit realm!
- Because of their unity, they can really advance the kingdom of God through their prayers together.
 - “How could one have chased a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had delivered them up?” (Deuteronomy 32:30)

The Eros Connection – Next Steps

- What can you do to strengthen the unity in your marriage? Here are some suggestions:
 - As a couple, bring your marriage to God know matter how bad it is and GIVE it to Him.
 - Repent for not loving your spouse with the right love. Remember, your spouse is a Christian too (or should be). Phileo love is in play here too. And especially Agape love should be in play here.
 - Make the commitment to each other to walk in love and let God bring your marriage to the proper level of unity that He can use to advance the kingdom!

The Characteristics of Love

- What are the characteristics of love? What makes it apparent that love exists in a person? We find the answer to this in I Corinthians chapter 13. Yes..you guessed it: “The Love Chapter”. We are going to break down the characteristics of love to see how we can better incorporate love into our daily lives.
- How many of you know that there are a lot of unlovable people out there? But God loves them. Jesus died for them. We were where they are; hurt and full of pain. We are to be “love with skin on.”

I Corinthians 13:4-13 – Love Characteristics

- Verse 4: “Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, it is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.”
- Verse 5: “It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God’s love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].

Love Characteristics cont'd

- Verse 6: “It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail.”
- Verse 7: “Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].”
- Verse 8: “Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy, it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth].”

Love is Patient – Verse 4

- Patience is the first characteristic named in the list. Why patience first? Have you ever been behind someone in traffic or in the store that moved at a snail's pace? Could you feel your patience getting shorter with each step they took? When you run out of patience, you can become rude and angry right?
- Where's the love that glorifies God in that? That's why Agape love is patient. Agape love will try to help the person. Agape love will show kindness in a hard situation.
- As a result, people are able to see the love of God operating in your life by your exhibition of patience.

Love is not Prideful – Verse 5

- The Bible says that God resists the proud. How then can the agape love of God reside in a prideful person? It can't. A proud person is concerned with themselves and not another person's welfare.
- A proud person feels the world owes them; they are entitled to be the first in line and God help the person who gets in their way. Pride causes a person to act rude and unbecomingly to insist on its own rights.
- Agape "God love" is the opposite. IT is humble. It thinks of others first. It doesn't insist on its rights and it doesn't hold grudges.
- This part of agape love shows how far above us God's love really is. How many of us want to bust someone in the nose when they offend us? Yes it may be hard at first, but with commitment, we can be like Jesus; who took it all for us.

Love Rejoices at Justice – Verse 6

- Love rejoices in God's truth and justice prevailing in the lives of men and women.
- In these last days, we see so much unrighteousness and evil abounding everywhere. The world seems upside down and morality has been thrown out the window. Watching the things happening in the world should serve as a motivator for strong intercession every day...this will bring God's justice and truth into the situations.
- However grieving these things are to us, agape love demands that we love the people anyway. We don't love what they are doing or saying...but we love them because God loves them.

Love Endures Everything – Verse 7

- God's love is full of hope and is determined to believe the best of everything FIRST. God's love doesn't fade under pressure.
- In spite of the evil, love continues to hope for victory. In the face of an immovable wall of negatives, God's love sees only the positives.
- Agape love has the ability to endure without weakening. Not an easy task! Agape love can outwait the evil day. It sees beyond the moment into the future. It sees the desired end result.

Love Never Fails – Verse 8

- Agape love never fails. The Amplified Bible goes further by saying love “never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end.”
- Verse 8 shows us that all the other gifts such as prophecies and tongues will cease eventually...but Agape love will remain forever. Why? Because God is love. Prophecies and tongues are for this time and age. Love is eternal. Love is ageless. It never fades away. Love is always present in the Kingdom of God.

The Christian's Requirement to Love

- As believers in Jesus Christ, we are required to love people...all kinds of people. The lost and the saved. Friends and enemies. The clean and the vile.
- This is a tough requirement! How many of us have said to God “I’m sorry Lord, but they have just gone too far for me to love them anymore.” It’s hard to love someone who has torn your heart out and stomped on it like it was a piece of garbage. It’s hard to love someone who curses you and dishonors you.
- But here’s the thing I can’t get past: God did it. Jesus did it. We tore His heart out and stomped on it; we have cursed Him and dishonored Him many times over.

What does the Word say?

- I John 2:5 “But he who keeps (treasures) His Word [who bears in mind His precepts, who observes His message in its entirety], truly in him has the LOVE of and for God been perfected (completed, reached maturity). By this we may perceive (know, recognize and be sure) that we are in Him.”
- How do we cultivate the agape love of God? By keeping, studying, treasuring, memorizing...planting His Word in our spirits. When we cultivate agape love, we are fulfilling the whole of the law.

What does the Word say?

- I John 2:6 “Whoever says he abides in Him ought [as a personal debt] to walk and conduct himself in the same way in which He walks and conducted Himself.”
- The next step from keeping the Word brings into abiding in Him, in Jesus. Isn't that where we all want to get to? How did Jesus conduct Himself during His ministry on earth? He was ALWAYS helping people! He spent all His time teaching, preaching, healing, casting out devils and raising the dead. Nobody was unimportant to Him...and nobody is unimportant to Him now. We are indeed “His love with skin on”.

What does the Word say?

- 1 John 2:9-10 “Whoever says he is in the Light and [yet] hates his brother [Christian, born-again child of God his Father] is in darkness even until now. Whoever loves his brother [believer] abides (lives) in the Light, and in It or in him there is no occasion for stumbling or cause for error or sin.”
- How many Christians out there are walking in darkness, wide open to Satanic onslaughts because they don't love their brothers and sisters in the Lord. We hear about church splits all the time. Remember, where there is strife, there is every evil work.
- Think about your siblings. They may make you so mad you want to spit nails, but you **STILL LOVE** them right? Fellow Christians **ARE** our brothers and sisters in the Lord. We must love them the same way.

What does the Word Say?

- John 2:11 “But he who hates (detests, despises) his brother [in Christ] is in darkness and walking (living) in the dark: he is straying and does not perceive or know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”
- Refusing to love or yielding to the grudge for a fellow Christian is a wide open door for Satan to bring you into total darkness. So dark you can't find your way around. It's not worth it. No offense is worth it.

What does the Word Say?

- I John 3:14 “We know that we have passed over out of death into Life by the fact that we LOVE the brethren (our fellow Christians). He who does not love abides (remains, is held and kept continually in [spiritual] death.”
- People, God takes love seriously in His people. It’s important that we get this. We have got to get past people’s shortcomings and look at them through the eyes of God. He sees their potential, their strengths. We’ve got to get there.
- Just look at this wide open door. “is held and kept continually in spiritual death.” Not a place I want to be!

What does the Word Say?

- 1 John 3:15 “Anyone who hates (abominates, detests) his brother [in Christ] is [at heart] a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding (persevering) within him.”
- Ouch! This is a hard word! But it goes to show the seriousness of love in God’s sight. Folks, loving people is the ONLY way that God is going to be able to bring them into the Kingdom of God! And isn’t that why we are still here? Isn’t that our purpose for still being on this planet? Love. God’s love MUST have an avenue in US to flow through to reach a lost and dying world.

Finally Brethren...

- I John 3:24 “All who keep His commandments [who obey His orders and follow His plan, live and continue to live, to stay and] abide in Him, and He in them. [They let Christ be a home to them and they are the home of Christ]. And by this we know and understand and have the proof that He [really] lives and makes His home in us: by the [Holy] Spirit Whom He has given us.”
- When Jesus Christ is our “home” and we are His “home”; we will love they way He wants us to. The way He requires us to.

The Requirement To Love

- Folks, we are not above our Master. He forgave us all when we did not deserve it. He has never stopped loving us. He always believes in us and hopes for our victory in life.
- We must be like Him. Remember, when our lives are hid in Him, His love will come out. That's the cultivation process. Losing ourselves in Him, releases the God "agape" love into our lives to be shared with the lost, the vile and the evil.

Conclusion

- Love is the first fruit and the greatest gift. Love never fails. Love casts out fear. Love can cause people to do amazing things. Love conquers impossible odds and scales the highest mountains.
- Our lives should exude the love of God in every word we speak and every action we take. People are drawn to love. Love is irresistible.
- If we would only let Him love the world through us, the world would be turned upside down. Because there is no love in the world..no real love. It's a cold, heartless place. The love of God draws men like a moth to the flame.

Conclusion cont'd

- This next week, seek the Lord about your individual “love walk”. Ask Him to show you new ways to love the brethren and the lost alike. You never know what a little agape love will do for a person.
- Real love is unforgettable. People recognize it and they remember it.
- Next week we are going to learn how to cultivate the love of God, how to seek the greatest of the gifts, which is love and how to begin to see people through God’s eyes. We are going to look at some real life ways we can start showing God’s love to the lost around us.
- Blessings everyone...see you next week!

Word Study on Love—Further Study

- Leviticus 19:18, 34
- Deuteronomy 6:5; 7:7,9; 10:12; 21:15; 33:3
- Psalms 5:7; 6:4; 18:1; 23:6; 25:7,10; 26:8; 31:7,23; 44:26; 69:16; 91:14; 116:1,15; 119:97, 113,119,127,159,163,167; 145:20; 146:9
- Song of Solomon 1:7; 2:5; 3:1; 5:8; 7:12; 8:6
- Isaiah 54:8,10; 63:9
- Matthew 5:44; 10:37; 19:19; 22:37,39; 24:12
- Mark 10:21
- Luke 7:47; 10:27; 11:42
- Romans 5:5; 8:35,39; 9:13; 13:8,10; 15:30
- I Corinthians 8:1; 16:22
- II Corinthians 5:14; 9:7; 13:14
- Philippians 4:8
- Colossians 2:2; 3:14
- Titus 1:8; 2:2
- Hebrews 1:9; 6:10; 12:6; 13:1,5