

# agape

(ἀγάπη)

## THE UNSELFISHNESS OF LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

Dave Gustavsen - May 21, 2023

**THE BIG IDEA:** Agape love is radically unselfish.

**READ 1 COR. 13:4-7:**

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

**1. Search the Word:** Fill in the chart according to these verses:

**LOVE IS**

**LOVE IS NOT**

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**2.** One sign that I need more love is: “I can’t enjoy your success.” Where have you seen this in yourself? Have you made progress in overcoming this sinful tendency? Explain.

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**3.** A second sign that I need more love is: “I can’t get over my own importance.” Where have you seen this in yourself? Have you made progress in overcoming this sinful tendency? Explain.

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4. A third sign that I need more love is: "I can't give up my way." Where have you seen this in yourself? Have you made progress in overcoming this sinful tendency? Explain.

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### **PRAYER**

Use the prompts below to guide your individual prayer time, as well as prayer with your group. We encourage groups to sub-group for prayer time (smaller groups of men and women).

#### **PERSONAL PRAYER TIME:**

In prayer this week, ask God to reveal any areas in your life where you are not representing what agape love is, based upon 1 Cor. 13:4-7. Record what the Holy Spirit reveals to you in the space below. Then, ask God for the grace and power to grow in your love for others in the body of Christ, based on this passage.

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Identify someone in the body of Christ that you can demonstrate agape love to this week. Write their name below, and commit to not only to pray for them but also showing them your love in a specific way.

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#### **GROUP PRAYER TIME:**

Share what the Holy Spirit revealed in your prayer time this week, and then spend time praying for one another, for God to further develop these Godly character traits of love and what it does.

As a group, pray for the people you have been praying for. Ask the Lord to provide opportunities to show any of these people agape love (both individually and possibly as a group).

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