

December 2016

God's love is not romantic. God never initiates phileo love to anyone in the Bible. Jesus the Son of God is fully God yet does not know everything God the Father knows. Questions? You might learn something if you read this study and **all** the Scriptures in it. The Bible defines love, including between you and Him, and then in Christian marriage.

WARNING: This is not our typical one page / 500 word article. Rather, this is a look at about 50 inter-related Scriptures which together comprise a wider view of God's love.

Prerequisite Understanding:

The Foundational Relationship of God the Father and Jesus the Son:

Malachi 1:6 **A son honors his father**, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My fear? says Jehovah.

John 5:19-20 Jesus the Son is not able to do anything of Himself, **except what He sees the Father doing**; for whatever the Father does, these things also the Son does likewise.

God the Father Exclusively Owns Non-Causational Foreknowledge:

Romans 9:13 God loved Jacob and hated Esau **before their birth**.

Romans 9:27-28. If the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea (Genesis 22:15-17), **only a remnant will be saved** (Isaiah 10:22-23); this was foretold **before many of them were born**.

John 17:12 Judas' betrayal was foretold **before his birth** (Psalm 41:9; 109:8).

Jesus the Son honors God the Father's Non-Causational Foreknowledge:

Mark 13:32 No one knows that day and hour, not the angels of Heaven, not the Son, but **only the Father**.

Luke 22:42 **Not My** (*Jesus the Sons'*) **thelaymah** will be done, but **Yours** (*God the Fathers'*) **will be done** (*by Jesus the Son*).

Thelaymah **Will**, a determination, (actively) choice (specifically purpose, decree; abstractly volition) or (passively) inclination.

John 10:18 No man takes My life from Me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This **entolay** commandment I have received of My Father.

Entolay Commandment = injunction = requirement by God the Father for anyone to join Him.

Christians honor God the Father's Non-Causational Foreknowledge:

Romans 9:29 No one would survive God's holiness... if it weren't for God's grace preserving a remnant.

Romans 9:14-26 **Do not ask**, "Why only a remnant?"! **Humbly thank God** even a remnant by His grace!

Isaiah 55:9 Mankind cannot understand God's non-causational foreknowledge, but must trust Him.

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Subsequent Understanding:

God the Father Manages *agape* Love and *phileo* Love Differently:

Agape

Literally: *much*; to *love* in a social {*union*} or moral {*doctrine*} sense; not an emotion.

Intellectual acquiescence to objective considerations of the head.

- 1 John 4:19 God the Father initiates *agape* love to us before we *agape* love him = ***God's unconditional love.*** *agape* is wider than *phileo*, embracing especially the judgment and the *deliberate* assent of the *will* as a matter of principle, duty and propriety.
- 1 John 4:8 God the Father is *agape* love.
- John 13:34 I give you a new *entolay* commandment, that you *agape* love one another. As I have *agape* loved you, you should also *agape* love one another.
- John 3:16 God the Father initiates *agape* love to us before we *agape* love him: For God so *agape* loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. See also Romans 5:8 and Hebrews 5:2.
- John 10:17 God the Father reciprocates *agape* love based upon His non-causational foreknowledge: God the Father *agape* loves Jesus the Son **BECAUSE** He laid down His life.
- John 14:23-24 God the Father reciprocates *agape* love based upon His non-causational foreknowledge: **IF** a man *agape* loves Jesus (*back* (1 John 4:19)), he will keep Jesus' words (Bible), then God the Father will *agape* love him, and both God the Father and Jesus the Son will come to him and make Their abode with him. He who does not *agape* love Jesus does not keep His Words, and the Word you hear is not from Jesus, but from God the Father who sent Jesus.

Phileo

Literally: to *be a friend of*; *fond of*, *have affection for* (denoting *personal* attachment, as a matter of sentiment or feeling); specifically to *kiss* {as a mark of tenderness}.

Passionate option of subjective impulses of the heart.

- John 16:27 God the Father reciprocates *phileo* love *back* to anyone **ONLY IF** they *initiate phileo* love to Jesus = ***God's conditional love*** (originating from the foundational, wider *agape* love initiated by God the Father which is revealed through Jesus the Son, as explained above).
- God the Father does NOT initiate phileo*** love to anyone in the entire Bible.
- Matthew 11:19.....Jesus was a *friendly* with sinners; not *friendly* with sin (= enmity with God James 4:4).

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Matthew 7:21-23. Heaven is only for those who initiate their own *phileo* love *friendship* (to the full extent of life Lordship – Luke 6:46; 13:25-28) to Jesus in reciprocation to God's *agape* love to them.

Psalms 2:12 *kiss* (implied *phileo* love) the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled in but a little time. Blessed are all who put their trust in Him.

Romans 16:16 Greet fellow Christians with a holy *kiss* of spiritual *friendship* (also in 1 Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:26, 1 Peter 5:14).

1 Corinthians 16:22 If anyone does not *phileo* love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. The Lord comes!

John 5:19-20 Jesus the Son only does what God the Father does... the Father *phileo* loves the Son for that.

John 15:19 The world *phileo* loves its own, and hates Christians... because Christians are not worldly.

Titus 3:15 Hug (*literally*) those who *phileo* love us in the faith.

Revelation 3:19 As many as God *phileo* loves, He rebukes and chastens; therefore be zealous and repent.

Life Application:

Summary For defining love:

God's love is **not** romantic:

The Latin word "*romanicus*" refers to a Roman style of an "idealistic love affair" embraced by Spaniards and Italians in a 19th century notion and by other cultures in other centuries.

Biblical love is covenant love: it comprises *agape* love and *phileo* love:

Summary For loving people:

Agape love is the foundational choice to unconditionally initiate affection / benevolence.

Agape love is assigned into existence.

Phileo love is a subsequently conditional affection built on the foundation of *agape* love.

Phileo love is assessed into existence.

Summary For knowing God the Father:

And For Christian marriage:

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Summary

For knowing God the Father:

God the Father's *agape* love has the exclusive component of non-causational foreknowledge, which requires timeless omniscience.

God the Father's *agape* love is assigned to everyone (John 3:16) by His choice (1 John 4:8).

God the Father reciprocates *agape* love according to His non-causational foreknowledge.

God the Father invented *phileo* love but never initiates *phileo* love; but only reciprocates it to those who choose to life-embrace God the Father's definition of Jesus' Lordship.

For Christian marriage:

Ephesians 5:25-29 **The Christian husband initiates *agape* love to his wife, just as Christ initiates *agape* love to his Bride, the church.**

1 Peter 3:7 God warns of the *seriousness of being a Christian husband*.

Ephesians 5:33 **The Christian wife initiates *phileo* loves to her husband, just as the church, the Son of God's Bride, initiates *phileo* love to the Son of God.**

Christians instead say the word *honor* her husband; the Greek word is our English word *phobia*. The Bible explains this:

1 Peter 3:1-6 The *phobia* of the Christian wife is **not** to *ptoesis* alarm **her**, but to communicate **God's *seriousness of being a Christian wife***.

Ephesians 5:21-24, 32 **The Christian wife also initiates *agape* love to her husband, just as the Bride of Jesus, the church, also initiates *agape* love to Jesus the Son, the Bridegroom... yet God actionably assigned the Christian husband to *agape* love his wife.**

John 15:15 **The Christian husband also initiates *phileo* love to his wife, just as Jesus, the Bridegroom, also initiates *phileo* love to the church, the Bride of Jesus... yet God actionably assigned the Christian wife to *phileo* love her husband.**

Summary

Loving Biblically life-embraces the roles and responsibilities God created to allow life more abundantly; Satan's sin of redefining God and His ways steals life, and Heaven (John 10:10). People have the free will capacity to embrace or reject (includes pervert or partially accept) God's kindness. For those who embrace Him, He provides two-way intimacy and the best of everything (includes problems and victory over them). He alone is God, owns and regulates every good thing (James 1:17), and is forever gladly worthy of all worship... and dwells with His worshippers (Psalm 22:3).

Loving Biblically is not a *suggestion* for marriage; it is God's *injunction*: it is what He requires from us for us to join **HIM**. Intimately join Him. ♥