

Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1427: What Does Christian Love Really Look Like? (Christian Character Series: Part IX)

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<https://christianquestions.com/character/1427-agape-part-ix/>

1. When we devote our lives to God, what eight aspects of character do we use to express our allegiance to Him? List the character attribute and its description. (2 Peter 1:6-7)
2. Why might Strong's Concordance definition of *agape* leave us underwhelmed compared to the scriptural applications like in 1 Peter 1:22 or 1 John 4:7-8? What is the difference between *agape* and *philadelphia* kinds of love?
3. What implications come to mind when we pray as Jesus taught his disciples in Matthew 6:9-13? What was God's ultimate expression of *agape* towards humans? Why is this extraordinary? (1 John 4:9-11)
4. How is God's love "disinterested?" What is our responsibility in John 15:12? (John 15:12-14, 1 John 4:9-11)
5. Is Jesus' conviction to fulfill God's will, my conviction? How can we change ourselves so that we have some of the same sense of freely giving to others that he did?
6. What are five practical takeaways that will help us develop a spirit of *agape* towards others?
7. How do we even begin to attain *agape*? Why is it irrelevant whether somebody is our friend or enemy when we attempt to apply *agape* in our dealings with them? (1 John 3:12-14, Matthew 5:43-45, CQ Episodes #1376, #1387) What small, *agape*-type action can you take towards someone who has been hurtful to you this week?
8. How do the public or outward parts of our Christianity need *agape* in order for them to become our foundation? Identify the gaps between the ideal and the reality in your life—and provide the solution!
 - a. What we say: (1 Corinthians 13:1) What is the ideal; what is the reality? How do we fix it?
 - b. What we know: (1 Corinthians 13:2) What is the ideal; what is the reality? How do we fix it?
 - c. What we do: (1 Corinthians 13:3, Matthew 6:3-4) What is the ideal; what is the reality? How do we fix it?
9. Which of these has the biggest gap between the ideal and the reality in your life? What step can you take this week to align your heart with your actions?
10. What do we gain if we perfect this *agape* kind of love? (1 John 4:18)
11. Why is *agape* the NEXT quality after *philadelphia*, brotherly love? In what way is *agape* "the allegiance of our purpose?" Why is it the top rung of our allegiance ladder?