

REVIVE!

***Your unfailing love, O Lord, is as vast as ...
the ocean depths. Psalm 36:5-7***

C S Lewis famously wrote about Four Loves. He obviously hadn't discovered chocolate yet! Joking aside, he very helpfully brought to our attention that in English we have one word for love, whereas in Greek, the language of the New Testament, there are at least four words indicating various aspects of love. *Philia* has to do with the love shown through friendship; *storge* relates to affection, and *eros* to romantic love.

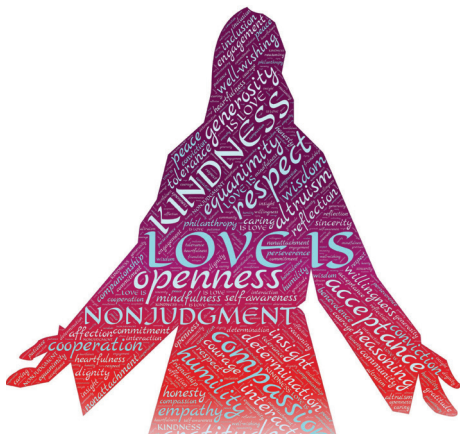
The Greek word *agape* on the other hand is infused with even richer and deeper meanings. It is a love which acts towards another person for his/her best good, irrespective of whether they deserve it or not and independent of personal likes, preferences or feelings. It is an unconditional love.

Agape love is exemplified by Jesus, who voluntarily went to the excruciating cross to save us from our sins, to give us new life and bring us into a relationship with Father God (John 3:16; 17:3). We didn't deserve it; it cost Jesus immense suffering and ultimately His death because He loved (*agape*) us. We, His followers, are called to love with the same (*agape*) love (John 13:35).

The title of this, and previous newsletters, is REVIVE! What if we, the 3,000 or so people who will read this, were to ask God today who and how we are to *agape*, despite the season of social distancing we find ourselves in? Wouldn't we cause a mini tidal wave! Do you want to REVIVE **and** be part of it?

With love, David (Mayhew)

LOVE Never Fails



Our first two newsletters looked at faith and hope, while the theme of this issue focuses on love. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul discusses the true meaning of love.

LOVE IS

patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour 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.

LOVE NEVER FAILS.

(1 Corinthians 13)



LOVE Quotes



'All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then (doesn't hurt!')
(Charles Schulz)

- ▶ "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."
(Martin Luther King Jr.)
- ▶ "Love recognises no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope."
(Maya Angelou)
- ▶ "To love another person is to see the face of God." (Victor Hugo – Les Misérables)

Which of the above quotes speaks particularly to you?

Be creative /Be challenged!

- ◆ Write a pithy saying to complete the sentence, 'Love is
.....
.....
- ◆ Write a five line acrostic poem on 'AGAPE' love using the letters of the word.
.....
.....
.....
.....
- ◆ How might God want you to show love to someone today? Why not do this daily? With God's help, I am going to:
.....
.....
.....
(person's name)

LOVED Beyond Measure

In these times of social distancing, we have seen so many acts of kindness and generosity from thousands of volunteers who have been reaching out with love and solidarity to each other during this time of lockdown. In the UK, thousands of volunteers, including Christians, have been part of neighbourhood support groups, helping with food banks and kitchens.

Christians have set up feeding stations in the Ghatsila area of India to feed huge numbers of people who walked thousands of miles back to their home villages following lockdown. Two hundred brave Cuban doctors flew to South Africa to help with the pandemic there, and aid was sent to the much neglected Shipibo-Konibo indigenous peoples living in the Amazonian area near Pucallpa in Peru, who have seen many deaths from the virus.

In Naples, baskets with a difference were left out for folk who needed food, but those who didn't were invited to put food in the baskets.

"Our streets are not empty, they are filled with the love and the care that we have for each other." (Queen Elizabeth: May 2020)



Do You Need a Spiritual Shower?



The two greatest commandments (and therefore the reason for our existence!) are, according to Jesus:

- ▶ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and
- ▶ Love your neighbour as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

Easy to do? Of course not, as the Parable of the Good Samaritan went on to show (Luke 10:30-37), and we can't do it unless we first have a revelation of how much He loves us. 'We love because He first loved us.' (1 John 4:19).

Maybe we need first to get under the spiritual shower of His love! Ask God to turn on the tap – and just receive! Reflect on the following passages to discover what the water of His love is made up of!

Psalm 139:1-18

Song of Songs 2:14

1 John 4:7-21

LOVE Building Reminders

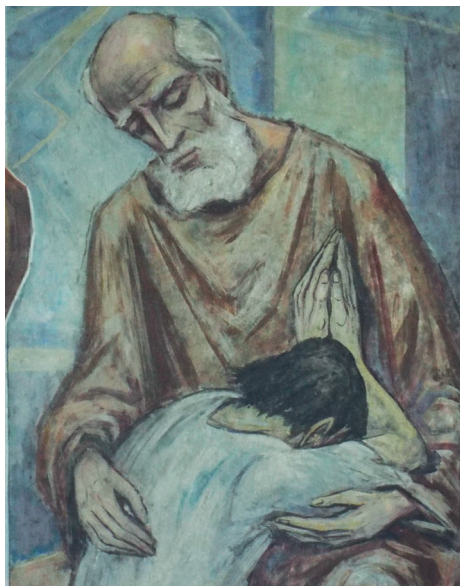
1. **GOD IS LOVE!** This alone is His reason for loving us, saving us and choosing us to be His children – not because of anything we do. (1 John 4:1-16; Deuteronomy 7:7-9; John 15:16)
2. The Lord's love and mercy are new towards us day after day, every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-24)
3. The Lord's love towards you and me is everlasting; from the beginning to the end – no stopping it. He says; *"I have loved you with an everlasting love."* (Jeremiah 31:3)
4. We are called to love Him, each other and ourselves. We do this best when we have received His love. We love BECAUSE He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)
5. Jesus set a love example when He washed His disciples feet. He then teaches – *'you'll need the Holy Spirit, the Helper'*, and then prays. With the help of God, everything is possible. (John 13-17)

CCHC Prayer Requests

- ◆ Pray for those in need of a revelation of God's love today. Proclaim Ephesians 3:14-21 over those the Lord brings to your mind.
- ◆ Pray for God's wisdom as we prepare for people to return here to encounter God's healing love.
- ◆ Pray that prodigal sons and daughters (name them), return to the love of Father God. (Luke 15:11-32)

LOVE is ...

Love Story, the famous 1970's film starring Ali MacGraw and Ryan O'Neal, is the heart-wrenching story of Oliver from a wealthy background marrying Jenny and finding himself disinherited owing to the family's displeasure. When Jenny becomes ill and dies from cancer, the father belatedly tries to see her and bring her flowers. But it is too late; she has passed away. One of the enduring quotes from the film is, *'Love means never having to say you are sorry.'* For the father, he had missed his chance; it was too late to express love.



Another famous quote came out shortly after the film, one of the famous 'Love Is' cartoons, which said, *'Love IS being able to say you are sorry.'*

Which of these two quotes is true? Is there validity in both? How is the Lord speaking to you?

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