

**A SUNDAY SCHOOL
SERIES ON:**

LOVE

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
EAST WENATCHEE**

An attempt at an objective introduction: a simple process of elimination

Is love an emotion?

Emotion defined -

Emotion explained -

Is love a volition?

Volition defined -

Volition explained -

Is love a standing?

Standing defined -

Standing explained -

Is love an action?

Action defined -

Action explained -

A concluding observation: Love has several aspects:

Knowledge of the object or person loved

A move for the object or person loved

A continued commitment to the object or person loved

Analysis of cultural data: Love used in secular contexts

A few ancient cultures' use and understanding of love:

Egyptians - *Mry*

Domestic use:

Political use:

Religious use:

Sumerians - *Ki-ag*

Domestic use:

Political use:

Social use:

Akkadians - *Ramu*

Domestic use:

Geopolitical use:

Religious use:

Political use:

A few modern cultures' use and understanding of love:

Latin based cultures - *Amor*

The Celtic semantic influence

The Germanic semantic influence

The polytheistic influence

Chinese culture - *Ai-xin*

The starting point

The direction

Swahili culture - *Upendo*

The root meaning

The romantic connotation

The domestic usage

Analysis of religious data: Love used in false faith contexts:

Historically:

The polytheists of ancient Canaan land

The polytheists of Mesopotamia

The polytheists of Incan South America

Contemporarily:

The polytheist Mormons

The monotheist Muslims

The polytheist Hindus

Analysis of religious data: Love used in Judeo/Christian faith contexts:
Old Testament Theology

Love from God:

Examples from the Law:

Examples from the historical books:

Examples from the poetic books:

Examples from prophetic books:

Love for God:

Examples from Deuteronomic literature:

Examples from the Psalms:

Love for fellow human beings:

Analysis of religious data: Love used in Judeo/Christian faith contexts:
New Testament Theology: The fundamental idea of Christianity

The way that love was introduced to us as Christians:

John 3:16

Romans 5:8

The theology of love's role in soteriology:

The position of God

The position of Man

The obvious need God met

A clear desired result of God's love manifested to us:

I John 4:8

I John 4:16

The theology of love for God

The need for clear understanding of truth so our love isn't blind.

The need for devotion and obedience so our love is active.

The need for focus on our Savior so that our love is not misplaced.

Analysis of religious data: Love used in Judeo/Christian faith contexts:
New Testament Theology: Synonyms and additional terminology

Stergo -

By definition:

Appearances:

Romans 12:10

Romans 1:31

II Timothy 3:3

Eros -

By definition:

No appearance in the New Testament

Phileo - Covered in subsequent lessons.

Agape -

By definition:

Appearances:

Luke 11:43

John 3:19

John 12:43

II Timothy 4:10

Romans 13:9

Galatians 2:20

I Thessalonians 1:10

Ephesians 5:22-33

Analysis of religious data: Love used in Judeo/Christian faith contexts:
New Testament Theology: Usage in the synoptics

The new way of life in Jesus and the kingdom of God

God sends His beloved Son out of love for us.

John 3:16

John 3:35

John 10:17

Jesus ministers in love

Mark 10:21

Luke 7:36-48

John 11:5--36

Jesus teaches love:

Matthew 5:43-46

Matthew 6:24

Mark 7:6

Luke 11:43

John 8:42

The prominence of the two great commands

References: Matt. 22:34-40; Mk. 12:28-31; Lk. 10:25ff

Command #1 - "Love the Lord thy God"

Command #2 - "Love thy neighbor"

Analysis of differences:

Analysis of applications:

Analysis of religious data: Love used in Judeo/Christian faith contexts:
New Testament Theology: Usage in the epistles, pt. 1 - Pauline theology

The electing love of God

Romans 8:28–34

Romans 9:6-24

Ephesians 1:3-14 (vs. 4)

Proverbs 16:4

The sinner loved by God

Romans 5:5

Romans 8:35-39

II Corinthians 13:11

Ephesians 2:4

Ephesians 3:19

The love we have for our neighbor

Romans 12:9-10

Romans 13:10

Romans 14:15

I Corinthians 8:1

I Corinthians 13

Galatians 5:6, 13, 22

Ephesians 4:2-3

Ephesians 5:2

Philippians 1:9

Analysis of religious data: Love used in Judeo/Christian faith contexts:
New Testament Theology: Usage in the epistles, pt. 2 - Johannine theology

God's nature and activity

John 3:35

John 10:17

John 17:23ff

I John 4:8

I John 3:1

Man's means of turning to God

I John 4:9-10

John 3:35-36

John 11:24-27

Love for others springs from love for God

John 15:9

I John 4:8

Analysis of religious data: Love used in Judeo/Christian faith contexts:
New Testament Theology: Social uses and the use of *phileo*

Social uses of *agape*:

The kiss of fellowship

The love feast

The primary synonym of the New Testament: *phileo*:

In Matthew

In John

In Paul

In friendship

As a kiss...

Analysis of religious data: Love used in personal experience

In relationship with other persons:

Familial responsibilities:

A husband to his wife

A wife to her husband

Parents to their children

Church responsibilities:

A pastor for his congregation

A congregation for each other

For each member of the body (one anothers)

For extended family members (missionaries)

For shirt tail relations (other denominations)

Community responsibilities:

In the workplace

In the neighborhood

In the halls of academia

In formal circles (committees, boards, councils, etc.)

Toward objects, ideas, art, etc.

Our infatuation with food

Our asphyxiation with beauty

Our impression with intellect

Our obsession with entertainment

Our fascination with celebrity

Revelation from God himself:

God's spiritual provision beyond salvation

God's physical provision beyond salvation

His loving revelation of Himself

His generous revelation of truth

His wonderful revelation of expectation

Analysis of religious data: Application of what we've learned

“Five Love Languages” exercise

Disclaimer: Pastor Adam is not a fan of the Five Love Languages by Dr. Chapman, but it may supply some helpful practicality to the study.

- **Words of Affirmation:**

- **Quality Time:**

- **Receiving Gifts:**

- **Acts of Service:**

- **Physical Touch:**

Possible benefits of this study.

Possible detriments of this study.

Analysis of religious data: Putting what we've learned to work

We must actively love our God - Commandment #1

With heart

With soul

With mind

With might

We must actively love our neighbor - Commandment #2

As ourselves