

AS CHRISTIANS, WE POSSESS THE LOVE OF GOD

- \* John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." The Lord Jesus Christ is telling us that we possess the very love nature of His Father. Agape love – this is the nature of God which always flows out to mankind. It will not stop, even if man refuses to respond to His love.
- \* Why is it so difficult for most Christians to live the life of agape love? John says the moment that we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are born of God, so we do possess His love. 1John 5:1, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God."
- \* Let's take a close look at John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Notice God loved us, you and me, before He gave His son. (He was seeing man through the eyes of faith.) If He loved us before we were saved, why should we think that He'd ever stop loving us after we became His sons and daughters? If we believe the lie that He has stopped loving us, we can adopt the attitude of needing to do works of love to regain His love, so He will bless us again.
- \* Without that full assurance in our hearts that the Father God loves us and always will, we will never truly live a consistent daily life of agape love towards others. It is my opinion that most Christians do not live in that assurance and that is why the highest level of love they live in is that of the world, phileo love, even though they possess agape love in their spirits. Phileo love is a responsive love and refuses to love when those they have loved no longer return that love.
- \* Living the life of agape love moves us up to a higher realm of living. Trusting the Father God and His Word is easier. Our focus is on first pleasing Him, then others. Self-centeredness is diminished greatly. John 15:7-10, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."
- \* So many Christians are frustrated in life because they do not see their needs being met. Matthew 6:33 is not a reality because the key to the kingdom is agape love, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."
- \* I stated earlier that God loved man because He saw man through the eyes of faith. He believed that man would respond to the sacrifice made in Christ. He believed man would want eternal life and live in His nature just like His son Jesus. Through the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ, God sees us as new creatures in Christ, the poor made rich, the sick made whole, and selfishness turned into love.
- \* It's a choice to move up to live on this level of agape love. It is a learning process. It takes time and effort but it is well worth it to live like Christ. Our choices in life will be based on agape love and not on circumstances and people's lack of love towards us.