

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### The Subject: What Is Love?

I John 4:8- He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.  
Galatians 5:14 -All the law is fulfilled in one word even this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

law - Greek: nomos - from the primary root nemo meaning to parcel out food or grazing to animals; prescriptive usage; instruction.

love - Greek: agape - to regard the "spiritual" welfare of another; specifically in giving them the word (instruction) of God; love/agape is a "him" manifested in the person of Jesus Christ when he died for his people (Rom. 13:10; I John 4:9,10); the Biblical definition of love/agape is found in I John 6 "this is love (agape)that we walk after his commandments".

There is no word in the New Testament Greek for our word love. We have incorporated several Greek words into our English word "love". In the 20th century America we have confused and misused two of these Greek words: agape and phileo. They are both translated "love" in the New Testament. The word phileo (love) means to be affectionate. Men corrupt the word agape (love) when they quote the Bible and imply that agape is affection. John said, "God is love (agape)". Jesus said we are to love (agapeo-verb form of agape) our neighbor and our enemy (Mark 12:31; Matt. 5:44). He was not saying that we are to be affectionate (phileo) to them. He was saying that we are to "God" (agapeo) them, since God is love (agape). We are to give our neighbor and our enemy all that God is - his instruction. When we love (agape) our enemies we feed them the only food that is legal (prescribed) for sheep to consume (the law - instruction in God's word). The Lord defined legal food for his people when he said to Adam, "You may eat of all the trees of the garden except - (Gen 2:16,17)". Love (agape) is feeding upon the word of God. We love (agape) others when we fellowship (eating at the Lord's "spiritual" table) with them, as we instruct in God's word. If a man does not believe God and read his Bible (understanding instruction himself), he cannot possibly love (agapeo/agape) his neighbor or his enemy as Christ commanded us to do. To love (agape) others does not mean to show affection (phileo) to them, but rather to give them the truth of God's word. "All the law (nomos-legal food-instruction) is fulfilled (finished or accomplished) in one word -- thou shalt love (agapeo - give God's instruction) thy neighbor (Gal. 5:14)." "Love (agape) worketh no ill (evil) to "his" (agape is the person, God) neighbor: therefore love (agape) is the fulfilling of the law (Rom. 13:10)." God is not affection (phileo). He is instruction in truth. "Thy word (instruction) is truth (John 17:17)." There will be a shortage of love (agape) at the end of time. Jesus said, "because iniquity (unlawful food) shall abound, the love (agape - instruction in the word) of many shall wax cold (Matt 24:12; Amos 8:11,12).

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