**Jn 21:15-17 Unconditional Love Al R**

Conditional loves – ***eros***/romance & ***philos***/friendship; Unconditional loves (UL) – ***storge***/family love & ***agape***/committed love. All bible words had secular uses before they were used to write the bible. The secular use gives us the root meanings of these words to help us understand what the writers are saying. ***Philos/phileo*** – ***agape/agapao*** are often used interchangeably but retain their individual meanings.

***Philos*** - compatibility love, affection love, admiration, enjoyment, based on reciprocation

***Agape*** – devoted, committed, determined mind-set, fully invested, giving all to/for

* Includes all of the desire & pleasure of the others -

**Gen 29:18** – Jacob loved Rachel – ***ahab 🡪 agapao***. We know that what Jacob thought, felt & desired with Rachel is better described by ***eros*** (not in bible) but covered by agapao.

***Luke 11:43 "Woe to you Pharisees! For you love (agapao) the front seats in the synagogues, and the respectful greetings in the market places***

***Luke 20:46 "Beware of the scribes, who love (agapao) to walk around in long robes, love respectful greetings in the market places, & chief seats in the synagogues, and places of honor***

***Jn 3:16,19 – God loved the world; Vs 19 Men loved darkness***

**Agape**

1. The word philos generally indicates a pleasurable, compatible, reciprocal relationship
2. Agape generally indicates to be devoted or committed to something, someone.
3. Agape indicates a committed, devoted giving of self to some person, some group (nation)
4. Pharisees desired and were determined to hold these places of prominence, being willing to do whatever was necessary to gain the respect of the common man.
5. Mt 22:37 Love (agapao) the Lord with all heart, soul, mind, strength – totally committed to give all we have to the Lord.
6. Agape for the Lord is the committed mind-set of the mature believer that God blesses.

***Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.***

***1 Cor 2:9 but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him."***

***James 2:5*** *Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?*

***1 John 4:21*** *this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.*

**Jn 21:15-17** *So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs."*

* Peter do you ***agapao*** me? Devoted, committed to me? Lord, you know I ***phileo*** you – friend

16 *He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep."*

* Peter do you ***agapao*** me? Lord, you know I ***phileo*** you, want to be your reciprocal friend

17 *He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep.*

* Peter do you really ***phileo*** me? Peter was grieved, Lord you know that I ***phileo*** you

1. Jesus was looking for a commitment from Peter not a personal friendship
2. Appears that Peter having failed so dramatically, was afraid to say he was committed
3. Perhaps it was Peter’s idea of love for Jesus (philos) that set him up to fail – he was determined to be a loyal friend, to do what loyal friends do for one another.
4. Peter was trying to love the Lord as a man being loyal to his man friend, not yet understanding that Jesus was God in the flesh.
5. Agape for Jesus would have been willing to listen & obey the Lord rather than contradict Him about the denials and God’s will for Peter that night – wasn’t His will for him to die.

**Agape – Concepts**

1. **Christian agape love is the overflow of the bel’s soul being experientially filled by GHS**

***John 7:37-39*** *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

* spiritual thirst from innermost being (koilos – God shaped hole) when filled by GHS overflows with rivers of living water – overflows in ministry to those around you.

***Rom 5:3-5*** *And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;* ***4*** *and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;* ***5*** *and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

* point of salvation GHS completely pours out (pf tense) love of God into bel’s heart
* pressure of adversity develops the inner man, character, confidence in God’s love

***James 1:2*** *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

* growth through adversity develops endurance enabling us to continue through adversity to maturity

***1 John 4:18*** *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.*

* mature love rejects fear in relation to God, no reason to be afraid of your Father.

1. **Baby believers are capable of agape love but it is inconsistent & easily overwhelmed by self-interest and temptation to react selfishly.**

***James 4:1-4*** *What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

* Hedonism – commitment to pleasure and sensual self-indulgence; me centered

***Gal 5:16-17*** *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*

* Flesh (human agenda) corrupts desire, by faith attaching desire to pleasure & sinfulness

1. **As a believer matures, deletes beliefs causing fear, accepts truth about God’s love, able to open heart to Lord, allowing His love to heal wounds & build mind-set of love to others .**

***John 13:34*** *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

* love one another as I have loved you – God’s love fills us and overflows to others

***Gal 5:13*** *For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

* spiritual freedom enabling us to let go of our guilt, shame and fear, but don’t use freedom to indulge sin nature, instead use it to serve one another in love.

1. **Agape is a mind-set that is committed to the edification of others regardless of conduct of the object, or any kind of adverse circumstances.**

**1Cor 13:4-7** *Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

* Agape lays aside commitment to self, viewing self as most important, attaching commitment to others, placing the needs of others before self.

**Colossians 3:12-14** And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 And beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

* we who are chosen & beloved: put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness & love which is the bond of completeness.
* Love is the bond (chain, a tie) that pulls all of these virtues together into an attitude.
* **Agape** (unconditional commitment to edify) keeps Christian virtues ready for use based on the need of the person in the moment under the leadership of GHS.