



**Educate  
+ Engage**



APOSTOLIC  
ID:



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The Love That  
Knows No Limits

### OVERVIEW

Jesus Christ is our example, and we should love as He loves.

#### Scripture Passages

Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Philippians 2:5–7

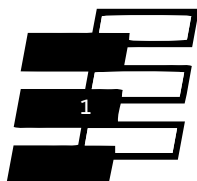
"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:"

### EDUCATE

We find one of the most significant days in the life of Jesus in John 13. He was spending His last week in Jerusalem before the greatest act of love ever known would alter history. Early in the week, Jesus spent quite a bit of time in the Temple facing the ridicule of religious leaders trying to trip Him up. Then the moment arrived for Jesus to impart some essential insights to His twelve disciples. He elected to eat His final meal, observing Passover with twelve flawed but chosen men. Jesus wanted that night to be one they would never forget. He loved them—according to John 13:1—all the way to the end.

In the book *The Servant* by James Hunter, a beautiful portrait of God's love is painted by looking at how the Greeks understood the word *love*. The Greek language, in which most of the New Testament was written, uses several different words to describe the multi-faceted nature of love.

*Eros* represents love as desire and strong attraction. Unfortunately in our society and media deluge, love has been diluted to an appetite. Young people across America are being fed a side of love that was designed by God but perverted and limited to physical attraction. Passionate love is more than physical interaction; love is more than impulsive emotion; it is commitment. Interestingly, the word *eros* does not appear in original New Testament writings.



## Lesson 2

*Discussion Questions: How has our society misrepresented love as more like infatuation or lust? How can we prevent this misrepresentation within the church?*

*Storge* is another Greek word used to represent an aspect of love expressed between family members. According to Romans 8, when our heavenly Father fills us with His Holy Spirit, He adopts us as His sons and daughters. Jesus Christ purchased the church with His own blood on Calvary. The believers within God's church are a royal family. If one of us in the family suffers, we all suffer together. If one of us in the family is honored, we are all honored together. We know familial love is scriptural, but the Greek word *storge* does not appear in New Testament writings.

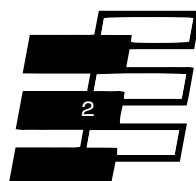
The Greek word for brotherly love is *philos*. This is an aspect of love that hints at conditional convenience: If you treat me kindly, I will respond in kind and be kind to you. The city of Philadelphia's name, the City of Brotherly Love, is derived from the root word *philos*. But when Jesus spoke of love in the New Testament, He did not speak of *philos*; He spoke of the Greek word *agape*.

Jesus Christ's love is not conditional. *Agape* love is rooted in behavior and choice, not feeling. The crowning chapter on love is found in I Corinthians 13. Love is patient. Love is kind. It is not puffed up or arrogant. It lays down pride and does not seek its own. God's love does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices in truth. It bears all things and endures all things. Love never fails.

*Discussion Question: What are some of the main differences between agape love and all other forms of love?*

The Scripture focus for this lesson, Philippians 2:5–7 commands: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."

Our enemy's base nature is pride, but Jesus' nature is humility. Pride gripped Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and led to sin. Sin left us desperately looking for our Redeemer, our Savior. God did the unthinkable. The holy God of Heaven humbled Himself when He came as Jesus Christ: God incarnate.



Let's not speed down that highway too fast. God humbled Himself when He came to the earth He created as Jesus Christ. And because He humbled Himself to lay down His life for us, Paul wrote that God has exalted the man Christ Jesus, having given Him a name high above every name. That is the same message of the beloved verse in John 3: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son." The love of Jesus descended to meet us, to forgive us, to redeem us.

Dr. J.H. Jowett accurately said, "Ministry that costs you nothing accomplishes nothing." We are given this priceless treasure of salvation, and we have the nature of Christ living in us. But some believers still do not take on His mission and show His love to others. That's tragic. No wonder Paul instructed the church in Ephesus to "be kind one to another, tenderhearted and forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). Since Jesus has forgiven us and shown us such grace and mercy, how much more should we freely share with others what God has freely given us?

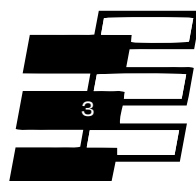
*Discussion Question: What thoughts come to mind when you realize the holy God of Heaven humbled Himself and came to earth as a baby?*

Humility is not low self-esteem. One wise man or woman said, "Humility is not thinking less of ourselves; it's thinking of ourselves less." According to Steven Lawson in his book *Philippians for You*, before Paul came along, there was no Greek word for humility because the Greeks thought humility was ridiculous. The Romans thought humility was repulsive. Some believe Paul himself coined the word for humility when he wrote these words in Philippians 2. Paul was calling us, not to be like the Greeks or the Romans, but to be like Jesus.

*Discussion Question: How are you living humbly to be like Jesus?*

### Closing

A missionary in the country of Brazil was walking through a religious festival, hoping to make some new connections and reconnect with some old contacts. As he made his way through many booths and displays, he came across a sign above a booth that arrested his attention. The sign advertised "Cheap Crosses." He immediately thought of a growing problem in the Christian community: *Many Christians are looking for cheap crosses. My Lord's cross was not cheap; it cost Him everything. Why should my cross be cheap?*



### ~~THE~~ ENGAGE

The same Paul who wrote Philippians 2 also wrote II Corinthians 12:15: "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved." You can almost feel his heart break when he realized the people he loved so dearly would not love him in return. When we share the gospel with others, we are not trying to get likes, or favorites, or emojis, or shares: we are simply allowing God to spend us to help reach someone else. The success of our mission is not gauged by people following us on social media; it's gauged by people following Jesus. Let us humbly love with no limits and reach everyone we can while we can.

