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The Power of Love

“What Kind of Love is This?”

1 John 3:1 – 3 (NKJV)

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- Love is one of the most powerful, intangible resources available to mankind.
- Since the beginning of human civilization, the word “love” has been used to build up as well as to tear down.
- More people have been hurt and destroyed in the name of love than perhaps any other name.
- It is also important to note that more people have been helped in the name of love than perhaps any other name.
- The word “love” is possibly the most overused, abused, misleading word in today’s vocabulary. It is also one of the most powerful.
- What is love?
- The English language uses this one word, “love” to describe a variety of emotions, such as:
 - I love my wife; I love my husband.
 - I love football; I love to shop.
 - I love the Lord; I love to worship.
- Same word, but different meanings
- However, the Greek language, in which the Bible is written, uses **three** different words to translate this one word, “love.”

- Examine each of these words and see how they fit in our use of the word, love:

1. **Eros**

- This word is not used in the New Testament. However, it is often used in the Old Testament to describe physical or sexual love.
- It is an erotic love as outlined throughout the writings of the Song of Solomon.

“How fair is your love...” (4:10)

2. **Phileo**

- This word means brotherliness, companionship, and friendship.
- This is often a temporary, conditional type of love.
 - “You are my friend as long as you do what I like.”
 - “I love you because you love me.”
- This type of love (phileo) is hard to predict (wishy washy).

3. **Agape**

- This type of love is used in our scriptural text. (1 John 3: 1 – 3)
- It is different from the other two types of love because it is an unselfish love.
- Agape love is more concerned about the object of love than the one who is being loved.
- This is the type of love that Paul writes about in I Corinthians 13:4–7.
- Now that we have examined the three types of love, ask yourself, what type of love do I seek, and what type of love do I share?
- There is power in love, but only in the right kind of love.
- **Agape** love as the text denotes, allows us to be called “the sons of God.”