



“The Fruit of “Agape”

June 2019

Jeanine and I have been studying the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22) the last few months. You know, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. We will gradually work through each characteristic. Love, or “Agape”, is not only the first, but the most important fruit. But, it has caught my attention recently! It makes me wonder if I really, truly understand what “agape” love is. I think all of us as believers would say we love the Lord, we love our spouse (I hope), I love my kids, my grandkids, those who are important to us. I think we all would say we would do anything for them, sacrifice for them, and maybe even die for them. But what about those who hurt us? Those who despise what we believe in... unfairly judge us ... our enemies? How do we “love” them?



shutterstock.com • 575306365

they are loveable or responsive. It is loving people because God loves them and it is loving with His love”.

Philip Yancey says, “You think of this person, not as one who has hurt you, but a person who needs you.”

Can you imagine praying for the person who hurt you... praying for good things to happen to them... expressing hope in them? Even praying that God would protect them? I realize I need a heart transplant! What about you?

Agape is my choice to be obedient to my Savior in reaching out to others He wants to love. Nothing is like God pouring His love out to others through you!

How does God love through us?

- Confront a situation where God wants to love someone through us
- Admit to God we don’t have His love for that person
- Consider how God would personally respond to that person
- Be obedient to God and respond How He would

In our study, Beth Moore says “we are incapable of Agape. No matter how hard we try, we cannot exercise this kind of love. We cannot love the unlovely. We cannot love those who do not love us. We cannot love those who hurt us. Agape is the love of God, from the heart of God, expressed to others through us.”

A.W.Tozer says “Loving with agape love is choosing, willing to direct God's love to specific people whether or not

Mission

Freedom Ministries of the Quad Cities exists to help couples and individuals experience freedom in Christ through identifying and resolving spiritual and emotional conflicts thus strengthening, empowering and helping fulfill their relationship with Jesus Christ and others.



Enjoy Your Summer

Testimony

After going through Freedom Ministries we both realized we had so much more love to give and to receive through Christ. You both lead us with wise counsel and authenticity. That is what helped us to listen and yield to the program. Now, for the first time in our marriage it feels like we finally are free. Free in a way of allowing each other full access to care for the heart and to give from the heart. I didn't think it was possible to love my wife more but through Jesus Christ and Freedom Ministries, the truth is I have fallen in love with her all over again and feel loved by her in an all new way.

Thank You

I met with you years ago, struggling with homosexuality. It was really hard for me to listen. I wish I would've been ready for the truth offered at the time, but my faith wasn't very strong. It took about 10 years to sink in but it did. I just wanted to say thank you for the ministry.

Though I wasn't 100% on board, the insights you gave me into my struggle helped set me on a solid path to find the answer my heart was looking for and you'll never know how much finding that answer has touched me and the people around me. Thank you for your patience and love. God's loving truth is one of the most powerful weapons on earth.

I've always wanted to help others who have similar struggles and now I think I have the understanding to begin doing that.

Thank you for showing me that God didn't hate me, nor was he frustrated with my struggle. I have come to believe that if God is smart enough to know the number of hairs on our head and length of our days, then he is smart enough to provide a plan of salvation that is able to come to pass before our lives come to an end. All that's needed is faith, trust in his perfect plan, and the willingness to follow his truth.

Birdies for Charity

Thanks to all who sent in pledges for the Birdies' campaign. We are so grateful to you for your gifts. July 9 is the cut off, so there is still time to send in your pledge! If you need a Birdies Brochure call or email and we will get one to you.

Thank you!



Praise and Prayer

Praise

- ◆ For God's solutions to people's relationship problems and His help in caring for hurting people.
- ◆ For God's provision of board members who assist us in following God's direction.

Prayer

- ◆ For wisdom and understanding in helping some very difficult problems.
- ◆ For spiritual protection from enemy attacks for our clients and for us.
- ◆ For God to sustain those who call with urgent needs and have to wait months to get an appointment.

Special Prayer Request

Our 13 year old granddaughter, Lauren, finished her chemo treatments in May and recently had her CT scan. The scan showed no signs of cancer! Thank you for your prayers! Please continue to pray that the cancer is arrested for good and never returns.

If you no longer want to receive the newsletter, please contact us. Our email address is: freedomministries@att.net or write to: Freedom Ministries, P.O. Box 953, Moline, IL 61266-0953