



## To Brotherly love “add” Agape love

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2 Peter 1:7 | Jon Rittenhouse MDiv., ThM

The idea of “add” is “to develop one virtue in the exercise of another...to supply in copious measure, to provide beyond the need, to supply more than generously.”

– Greek Professor, Kenneth Wuest

Significant questions that come to my mind about love

1. What is love?
2. How do these two loves differ?
3. How are they same?
4. Which is the most common?
5. Why is each important?
6. How can we cultivate both of them?

“And in your godliness, add brotherly love, and in your brotherly love, **add** agape love.”

-- 2 Peter 1:7, paraphrase

### A. What is the texture and the nature of each of these loves? (John 5:20; 16:27; 20:2)

#### Phileo (45x)\*

love of something pleasurable  
love of delight  
pleasurable qualities in the object  
pleasure in the person  
a love of liking

#### Agape (320x)\*

love of something considered precious  
love of esteem  
valuable qualities in the object  
value to the person  
a love of prizing

What about agape love?

“...the agape love of God **has been poured out** within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5) [Poured = aorist, passive, indicative]

“Agape speaks of that love which springs from an awakened sense of value in an object which causes one to prize the object loved. It expresses the love of approbation, of esteem, as over against the love of pure delight...” – Greek professor, Kenneth Wuest\*\*

Agape love is present in the two great commands ... love God and love your neighbor!

The verb “add” suggests we are to use brotherly love to help enable us to add agape love to our life.

### B. How do each of these loves become a greater part of our life?

1. The God Factor (1 John 4:19; Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 3:17-19)

“The fruit of the Spirit is agape love...” (Galatians 5:16)

“...the agape love of God **has been poured out** within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5) [Poured = aorist, passive, indicative]

## 2. The Human Factor

“Without growing deeper in close friendships, believers will never be able to enter into abundant Christian living that Jesus promised, for friendships operate as **our school to train us in love.**”

“We learn how to love as we have been loved but becoming a master at loving others takes a lifetime, perhaps an eternity.” – “Wasting Time with God” by Biola Professor Klaus Issler

## 3. The Nike Factor: Just Do It!

“Love is like a muscle, the more you exercise it, the stronger it gets.”

“...if we love one another, God abides in us, and His agape love is **perfected in us.**” (1 John 4:12)

### C. How are these loves exercised in different relationships? (Eph 5:1-2; Gal 6:9-10, 1 Thess 3:12-13)

“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, **let us do good to all people**, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.” (Galatians 6:9-10)

“May the Lord cause you to increase and abound in agape love **for one another, and for all men**, just as we do for you; so that He may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.” (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13)

1. To Enemies: It’s all agape because we find little to nothing that we find lovable. (Matt 5:44-46)

Agape love towards an “enemy” is having the attitude of goodwill towards them.

2. To Strangers: Jesus’ story of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)
3. To Neighbors: Love (agape) your neighbor as you love (agape) yourself (Matt 22:39)
4. To brothers and sisters in Christ (Phil 1:9)
5. To spouse and family (Eph 5:25)
6. To friends (1 Peter 1:22; 1 Thess 4:9-10; Phil 1:8-9)
7. To Jesus and the Father (Matt 22:37-38)

**“To your brotherly love add agape love.”** 2 Peter 1:7

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**What will you do to become a better lover of God and people?**