

#24 May 6th,  
What kind of love

Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

<sup>9</sup>“As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. <sup>12</sup>This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I don’t call you servants any longer, because servants don’t know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. <sup>17</sup>I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

You have to tell me how it is for you. It is used to bother me when Andrew keeps telling me many times per day: I love you... I used to think: Let me to decide if you love me or not...and if you love me, you would not do this, you would do this... Words does not mean too much, I would think to myself. I think opposite, - acts of love, everyday works of love, daily routines that requires discipline and self giving- that’s love. Not these three words... I can sit on the couch and watch tv 12 hours per day and during the commercial to tell you that I love you...nope. Better say nothing. Maybe I got older (just turned 39:) but it does not bother me as much today. I think Andrew also not uses these words as just fillings, or just to keep me quite or to end up the conversation he does not want to continue...But what is love for us today?

I even asked this question on facebook. I did not get many answers, but the answers I got I want to share with you. Kim shared with me: One example I thought of right away is when Carol Ann got married and her grandpa Don Meyer danced with her. It was so precious and many people (including me) were crying. Also there are other examples that I read:"That's Love" are when men open doors, help ladies put coat on, hold their hand. I also think it is nice when I see men pulling their car up to the door to drop ladies off at church, then go park the car.

I want to encourage for one more week to think and keep your eyes open to see the moments:"That’s love" Please share. Maybe especially think about mom’s. See if you can spot a mom who shows love to her kid. I would love if you would share it with me. So we can all grow and maybe do the acts of love to others.

Today’s passage is about love. In chapter 13 John writes about Jesus washes his disciples feet, in chapter 14 we read about the Holy Spirit, but the main purpose and the main idea in these

chapter is love, the agape love. Agape is a conscious, intentional, selfless love, a sign of the indwelling God. In chapter 15 Jesus says: As the Father loved me... Jesus states a fact that he had already experienced. He knows. He declares it. Did God the Father give him Mercedes? maybe a horse and chariot? No, this is the love, that says to you: "You are my beloved son in whom I am well pleased". A sense of belonging and being rooted in his love. The Father's love assured him of a sense of security and safety in this harsh world. Jesus continues: "I too have loved you". That is a statement too. Have you experienced Jesus love for you. Can you say, yes, I know Jesus' love. Are feel safe, secure, trusted in Him His love and all that come in life?

Some words you hear and the words just do not stay with you. But some word you hear and they just stick with you. Even you want to shake them off, you can not... I wish all the Bible's word just would naturally stick with me, but some of the verses I have to read continuously to make sure they will stay with me. I have to repeat, write them down, meditate... and after a while I have to refresh and pray they will bring fruit into my life. Some of the words I wish they would not land so deep in me, but they do. I remember few months ago I heard a person told me that I am just in a honey moon stage, it will go away and I will sense the reality. These words stuck with me. I think I am getting away from a honey moon to real life. I think Jesus tries to prepare his followers too. I think He is saying the honey moon will end up and you will have to face the reality. It is not going to be pretty. But Jesus is telling how you and me should live. he gives as a commandment.

First of all remain in my love. Going through life you meet the best variety of the people. I think the ones who are grumpy, angry, jealous, are the ones who did not remain in Jesus love. Before we read any further we have to think, that I have to remain in Jesus love. In his love. It is hard to love if you are not experienced that loved and if you did not stay in that love. I feel unsecured, unsure about me and my life, if I lost that knowledge and if I am not remaining in Jesus love for me.

The question would be how do I remain in His love? I think the answer would be in the very next verse: Keep my commandments. It does remind me of my house rules... Want to stay in my love, better keep these house rules... We do not have our official rules, but just recently Ella said to me: I think I know what our house rules are... Oh, I was intrigued... Tell me, Ella. So she continues: No lie, family first, Love God, pick up your mess.... Funny I think she got it almost right.

Jesus said, want to remain in my love, - keep my commandments. Rules are not fun. I do not like when somebody tells me what to do. But why? We think we are smarter? Higher? Better? To obey, to submit,- no fun. But I believe the good news is we get more freedom when we submit. First of all submitting to God. Do we know the commandments? Do we keep them? So I wonder why we are not remaining in Jesus love?

Second what we get is a joy. Sound very opposite to me. Submitting, keeping the commandments and all this will bring joy? Maybe you can not tell me all the 10 commandments right now and we will work on it. But there is one commandment that Jesus is the most concerned. I think it is important not to forget or ignore the 10 Commandments, but one we all need to have in place and in practice is: Love each other as I have loved you.

I think we can divide the next verses in four points. Two is how we know that Jesus loves me.

1. Jesus gives up His life for us. He gave the most. “No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friend” Jesus did it. He did the greatest love for us.
2. We are not slave -master relationship. He calls us his friends. Why because we know what God’s plan is. We know what is God’s plan for us. We know Jesus plan for you and me.

Third and fourth what we do to remain in Jesus love:

3. Love each other. I bet it would be a good number of people who would not be able to say all 10 commandments in order, but all will know that the greatest commandment. Love your God and love each other. It is a commandment. Easy to say: Love each other. Not so difficult to talk in the church about it... but to do it... to love these people...Some are very unlovable. How can we do the one things, the most important thing? So let’s explore a little bit about different kind of love. I would think that most of us have this kind of love:

First, there is Because love: *“I love you because you’re beautiful...because you’re talented...because you make me feel special.”* Second, there is When love: *“I love you when you’re good...when you’re faithful...when you’re obedient.”* Third, there is If love: *“I’ll love you if you please me...if you don’t hurt me...if you measure up to my expectations.”* Fourth, there is Period love: *“I love you. Period!”* This is God’s love, no conditions, no fine print, no timetable.

In our Bible study we also talked about how to love well and what does it mean to love other person. One of my favorite quote is: “we too are invited to be prayerfully present to people, revealing their beauty to them.” Think every time you talk with a person your goal is to reveal their beauty to them. I would think we should start loving by doing just two things. It would be a very good start: Speaking and listening. Essential and easy, but so difficult. Can we truly listen when somebody speaks? or we know already what they he or she is going to say. Am I already busy with thinking what I am going to say? Am I pretending I am listening? How is when I speak? Do I speak with love? Do I speak too much? Am I sarcastic? Judgmental? Gossiping? I am willing to express and be honest what I am thinking?

*Agape* is the noun “love” used by John. Mark never uses it; Matthew, once; Luke, once. But it occurs seven times in John, mostly in chapters 13–15. Agape love most of the time is not mutual love. It is not easy to love but it is possible if we have a goal to give that love to others.

There is something distinctive from what would just good people do to those who believe in Jesus Christ. All people experience some kind of love. But what is so different about those who are Christians from those who are not? Should it be a difference? What kind of love that would be or the reason for that love, that the world would know about God and His love? What is different about us than those who do not believe but loving others? And what if the only thing we truly need to do is to start learning and loving others? Willing to remain in God’s love? Willing to worship God? Let’s start with listening and speaking with love. I think it is a good start that can lead into living a life that is filled with agape love to all the people.