

In both John 4:8 and 4:16 we are told that ***“God is love [agape].”*** 1 John 4:10 says, ***“...this is love [agape], not that we loved [agape] God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*** In 1 Corinthians 13 we read, ***“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love [agape], I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.”***

Love [agape] is not a thing which is found in the natural man; it is a God thing. Agape love is found in God alone. God is love [agape]. When we do any “good” thing – any form of ministry – that is prompted by our flesh and the *eros* of the natural man rather than the *agape* love of God, it is of no benefit to us. Eros-driven action is a clanging gong; it comes out of nothing, is nothing, flows from someone who is “*nothing*” and it “*profits us nothing.*”

Agape-love is not a warm-fuzzy feeling or something that is like eros-love. Agape is altogether different. Agape is God in action. Agape is not like anything we know in the natural man’s experience; agape is the heart of God and is known only by revelation. Agape-love is the motivating force behind all true “ministry”. Agape-love is the love that is found in Jesus and is discovered as we come to know Jesus; it is the life which is found in union with Him.

The agape-love-life is God’s life flowing into and through the believer through his union with Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, (John 15:5) ***“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.”*** Agape-life flows into and through the children of God; only as we abide in Him can we bear the fruit of the agape-life [the God-life]. Apart from Him WE CAN DO NOTHING! It profits us nothing; we are nothing!!! In union with Him, agape flows and all things are possible, for *with God nothing is impossible!*

The agape-driven God sent His Son. The agape-driven Son refused every opportunity to escape the cross and chose instead the agape-cross which

redeemed us out of the hand of our enemy. The agape-driven child of God bears much fruit and in eternity will hear ***“Well done, My good and faithful servant!”***

One of the great tragedies of the day of judgment will be endured by those who will come expecting great things from their God. Jesus said, ***“Many [MANY] will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name, drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*** (Mat 7:22-23) Jesus does not argue or debate about what they might have done; He simply says, ***“I never knew you, depart from me, you evildoers!”***

What ***‘EVIL’*** were these ***“evildoers”*** doing????!! They were prophesying, doing deliverance, and performing miracles all in the ***“name of Jesus”***. That doesn't ***sound*** like evil – but obviously, it was!

The heart of their problem was that they were not operating under the authority of the Lord Jesus; they were busy doing religious things ***‘in the name of Jesus’*** while they were still serving their own fleshly appetites and building their own kingdoms [rather than His]. They continued to function with that ancient emphasis on the intellectual knowledge of the natural man rather than Spiritual revelation which produces a renewed heart and mind.

How can we avoid the flesh-driven, eros-inspired life, of the natural man? Our flesh certainly does not like the answer; will we refuse to believe it even when we hear it – again? It takes the cross – His cross! There is simply no other way. Jesus made it VERY CLEAR when He said, ***“If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?”*** (Mt.10:38; 16:24; Mk. 8:34; Lk. 9:23) There it is again and again, plain and simple. The road of the disciple is costly and painful – just as it was for the Master. But, at the same time, the road of the disciple is filled with abundant life –resurrection life! Jesus said, ***“... I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.”*** (John 10:10 NASB) That abundant life is available to all God's children, but few choose that road. It seems too hard, but that “easier” way only leads to frustration, futility, and sometimes to death – eternal death.

These truths are Lethal Weapons. If applied they bring death to the flesh resulting in resurrection life and ultimately eternal life! If the message is parked away for future use, it becomes dead religion. It all depends on you and what you do with these Scriptural truths. It is your call and ultimately, **it is your eternity.**

Blessings

George