

AGAPE REVEALED

The Old Testament reveals that **GOD IS**.

A most important concept in the New Testament is that **GOD IS LOVE**.

Jesus came to reveal the all-encompassing-ness and personal focus of God's agape-love. That was His singular purpose in coming for as He said, ***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge or condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."*** [Joh 3:16-17] ***"... I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."*** [Joh 6:38] ***He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*** [1Jn 2:2]

Because God is love, He was seeking to renew relationship with all mankind, His love-created children. This necessitated a payment for sin's penalty levied against the ones who had sinned and a reconciliation and restoration initiated and accomplished by the offended party. Jesus was sent from heaven to accomplish those 'impossible' tasks and He did it. He did not condemn; He **received** to Himself the condemnation which was so richly deserved by every man and woman alive, while in the same moment He sought to save the very ones who arraigned His death.

When Jesus was sent to earth by the Father, it was the creative power of agape-love that sent Him and agape-love that motivated Him throughout His life here on earth.

Jesus also said, ***"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner."*** [John 5:19]

Jesus in all His ways was motivated by the agape-love supplied by the Father. He could ***"do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He [saw] the Father doing"*** so in all of His words and deeds God was granting Him an undiminishing supply of love, power and purpose. Agape-love healed the sick, set free those in bondage, spoke truth to all who would listen, and drew them all to the Father with the Father's love. Agape-love **created** life and light and freedom and victory everywhere He went.

The flow of agape never weakened nor was it ever expended; it was and is an everlasting flow. Jesus manifested that love perfectly in all that He said and did. It was Agape when He said, ***"Neither do I condemn you."*** It was Agape when He said, [Mat 23:27] ***"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness."*** It was Agape when He said, [Mat 11:28] ***"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."*** It was Agape when He said to the Syrophenician

woman, [Mat 15:26] **"It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."** All those were God's Agape-inspired words to the people of His day.

It was Agape that healed the blind, raised the dead, set free the captives, fed the multitudes, and it was Agape which formed a whip and drove the money changers out of the temple.

But, even as agape-love directed and empowered Him, there was an anti-god force which conspired to destroy Him so that finally He acknowledged, **"...you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God..."** [John 8:40] And on another occasion He said, **"They hated me without a cause."** [John 15:25] In the end, the anti-god force **did** succeed in killing Him because of His agape-driven life.

But that supply of agape - God's agape - has not run dry for the word "agape" describes the attributes of God and God Himself. **"God is love [agape]."** [1 Jn.4:8,16] Agape still seeks to heal the sick, comfort the mourning, and speak truth to all who will hear. This agape is not an emotion or feeling; it is the unending force emanating from the Father to do good for His children. It is not a law or a directive; it is a Person. He Who is agape still moves in agape.

Agape speaks. Agape heals. Agape rebukes. Agape judges. Agape reaches and calls. He moves and speaks in His own right but His constant desire is to move and speak through His children. His agape and divine purposes continue to flow in unremitting streams from the heart of the eternal God into the hearts of His children and through them into a dark and needy world. According to second Corinthians 5:19, **"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."**

Agape was reaching through Christ. Agape is still reaching and the world is His target. God was in Christ for that great purpose of reconciliation and now He reaches to and through us with that same desire for reconciliation. Agape will never be satisfied with mere religion or rules or forms; agape desires reconciliation, relationship, and ever-increasing intimacy.

To walk in agape or to walk in love is to hear God and say and do what He is saying and doing. It is not a set of laws or a human feeling; it is God speaking to men and acting through men. Agape is manifested when a man or woman hears God and commits himself or herself to do and say what God is doing and saying.

The two greatest commandments have to do with loving God and our neighbor. This can only be fulfilled by yielding OURSELVES to Him to serve HIM and ALLOW HIM WHO IS AGAPE TO MANIFEST HIMSELF TO AND THROUGH US. Nothing else will work; that is why Jesus said, **"Marvel not, YOU MUST be born again" – "born of the spirit."** Being born again results in relationship; that relationship results in the flow of the life and agape of God Who is agape.....which ultimately results in an agape life-style.

Of course, if you determine to be an agape-led child of God, the world will hate you just as they hated Jesus. That has been true of His kids for two thousand years, but Agape is not finished yet. The ministry of reconciliation remains incomplete and according to Agape, there is still work to do and He is looking for sons who will serve in His agape-called agape-powered army.

Are you available?