

Longview Baptist Temple
Adult Sunday School Lesson
March 29, 2009



FUN AND FRIENDS CAMPAIGN
LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP
I Corinthians 13:4-7

AIM: To teach my pupils the difference between Agape and Phileo love that affects friendships.

SCRIPTURES: I Corinthians 13:4-7

INTRODUCTION: This lesson series is intended to teach my pupils how to be a friend and what it takes to remain a friend. In order to understand deep relationships and the deepening of our relationships we must start with being a friend. That is the door that opens up all other relationships. To understand being a friend we must understand the word "love."

THE LESSON:

I. TEN STATEMENTS

- a. There are two main words for love in the Bible.
 - i. Agape
 - Agape is a God given love. It is a consistent love. Agape cannot be worked up. Agape cannot be achieved. It cannot be earned. Agape is a gift from God. If you have a friend, that friend is a gift from God. Agape is total unselfishness. I Cor. 13:5, "love seeketh not her own."
 - ii. Phileo
 - Phileo is a fondness to one of your senses. For example I say, "I love grilled chicken sandwiches, they taste so good. I love peanut butter sandwiches. I love roses because they smell good. I love a sunset because it looks good. I love a choir special because it sounds so good. Phileo is something I enjoy. Phileo in the context of people and not ice cream cones is total selfishness.
- b. Agape is what I or another can do for you while phileo is what you can do for me.
 - i. Agape says I want to make you happy. If I can't I hope someone else can, because I want you to be happy and have joy.
 - ii. Phileo is what you can do for me to make me happy. This is not sinful, but it is selfish. True friend relationships are built on Agape and not phileo.
- c. Neither Agape nor Phileo can in its purity exist with the other.
 - i. Our personal relationships are affected by these loves.
 - ii. A child needs his parents, a wife needs her husband, and a husband need his wife. So if these folks have the first step to a deep relationship of being a friend then Agape rules and not Phileo. I John 4:16-18 tells us that perfect love casteth out fear. Perfect love is Agape without Phileo. Perfect love is when I am your friend. If I Agape you and give you what you need I will not expect nothing in return.
 - iii. The more you want from somebody the less you can Agape them. The more you Agape them the less you will want from them. 95% of all relationship problems are caused by selfishness.
 - iv. To whatever extent you are seeking something from someone else you are robbing that much of true Agape love that you can have for them.
- d. There is nothing wrong with Phileo within proper boundaries.
 - i. To Agape sports is idolatry. To Agape music is idolatry. However to Phileo sports or music, etc. is not bad.
 - ii. There will always be areas in our lives that Phileo exists, but it should be within boundaries. You can Agape food and it will destroy you. To Phileo is not bad within boundaries.
- e. Growth in grace is an increase in Agape and a decrease in Phileo.
- f. The absence of wanting what I don't have is maturity.
- g. The right kind of relationship does not require a friend to have no wants.

- i. If you say to your wife, "I don't want anything and I wish you were that way" that is wrong.
- ii. If you say to your husband, "I hope you are listening to this" that is wrong.
- iii. A parent should not be surprised when a child lives at a child's level.
- h. A real relationship wants the friend to have what he or she wants.
 - i. We ought not to require others to be like us.
 - ii. The same degree of unselfishness should not be required of others.
- i. A Bible friend relationship is seldom returned.
 - i. The more Agape love you have can be dangerous if you then want someone else to love you with the same Agape love.
 - ii. 95% of the folks who write me notes say, "Thanks for the sermon, that is exactly what I needed."
- j. If love seeks return then Phileo has re-entered into your life.
 - i. You can enjoy what others do for you; just don't want what others do for you.
 - ii. Only want what you have!
 - iii. The minute you have it, want it!
 - iv. Refuse to want what you don't have.

OBSERVATIONS:

1. You can enjoy a friend by giving to him.
2. You can lose the joy of a friend by expecting to receive from him.
3. If you don't want then you are happier when you get and not unhappy when you don't get.
4. The surprise makes the relationship sweeter.
5. If you don't want anything from anyone then you can never be disappointed by them.