



---

## *The Tragedy of Love*

---

The Fallacy And Deception of Human Love

---

*Josef Cherreguine*

---

Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries 2003

---

# THE TRAGEDY OF LOVE

The Bible is the only rightful authority on the subject of love since God is the only Person who knows the reality and truth above love. There are four major categories of love and each is bundle with human misunderstanding and delusion brought by ignorance of Bible doctrine. We are going to study each major category with its subcategories. The major categories are:

- The love of God for God
- The love of God for man
- The love of man for God
- The love of man for man

## GOD'S LOVE FOR GOD

God's love for His own essence gives explanation to 1 John 4:8 statement "God is love". Only God is said to be love. We may love someone or something but we never are love. Human love is always related to an object but God's love is an attribute of His perfect essence, an integral part of who and what He is and also His love is the epitome or essence of love itself. God is immutable and eternal; therefore His love always existed, even when there is no possible object of love.

Human fall in love or fall out of love, but God does not. Our love for another person can grow or disappear but God's love remains eternal and changeless. Our love fluctuates, His does not. Changes in man do not create changes in God's love, because His love does not depend on us or any other created object. God's justice and righteousness support and guarantee His love, but His love also is directed toward His own perfect character.

This tremendous inner affinity within the attributes of God is expressed in the statement that God is love. He loves who and what He is. He loves His own righteousness and justice (Psa. 11:7, 37:28).

In man, total love is arrogance because we are imperfect and sinful. In God, total love is not only legitimate because He is perfect but also He is absolutely worthy.

God would compromise His justice and righteousness if He loved anything less than perfection. He would also be compromised if He failed to love His perfect essence. God exists in three separate distinct persons, each having identical divine attributes. God is three persons, but one in essence. When the essence of God is in view, God is said to be one; when the individual members of the Godhead are in view, God is said to be three.

The doctrine of the Trinity introduces a distinction in describing God's love: God's love for God is both subjective and objective. God's subjective love is the love of each member of the Trinity for His own righteousness. God's objective love is each Person's love for the other two members of the Trinity. The attributes of God's essence guarantee that God's subjective thinking is perfect.

In human, subjectivity is evil because of our imperfection. God's love for God is subjectively internal within the essence of each member of the Godhead and objectively external between the members of the Godhead. This love relationship between the three members of the Trinity is the most exclusive relationship in the universe. The entry requirements are infinite, absolute, and perfect impossible for sinful man to meet. We have no access with God apart in grace.

## GOD'S LOVE FOR MAN

God's love for man is the divine love directed (outside the Godhead) toward imperfect man. As in God's love for God, divine integrity is involved except that it resides only in the subject, not in the object of love. God's love for man falls into two categories:

- Impersonal love for all members of the human race
- Personal love for all believers

Divine impersonal love emphasizes the subject while divine personal love emphasizes the object. Impersonal love emphasizes the perfect justice and righteousness of God. Personal love emphasizes the believer's status as a member of the royal family of God forever (John 1:12, Heb. 12:5-14). Divine impersonal love is without condition, directed toward all men, while personal love is conditional to all believers who express faith alone in Christ alone and become possessors of the imputed righteousness of God.

The standard factor for God's love, both impersonal and personal is always his own absolute righteousness and justice. He loves only what His righteousness approves. God cannot compromise any divine standard without destroying His righteousness and justice. If His perfect justice and righteousness are compromised, so is His love. God cannot be God if He loves the unworthy, yet He is said to love every member of the human race (John 3:16), whom He condemns at birth (Romans 5:19). The solution is found in divine impersonal love, which depends exclusively on the absolute character of God, and never on merits, capability and ability of man.

#### Divine Impersonal Love

- Emphasizes subject
- Emphasizes the integrity of God
- Unconditional
- Directed toward all men

#### Divine Personal Love

- Emphasizes object
- Emphasizes positive volition of man
- Conditional
- Directed toward all believers

Every barrier between God and man was removed by the salvation work of Christ on the cross so that only the cross now stands between man and God. Only one issue remains; our volition. We must freely believe in Christ to be saved. We are saved by the grace of God (by the work of Christ) through faith (the act of human volition to believe).

We can know and understand divine love only through Bible doctrine. No other book has accurate information and explanation about the love of God for man.

Divine personal love toward believers is manifested in four phases:

- Divine love in logistical grace
- Divine love in spiritual advance
- Divine love in maturity
- Divine love in eternity

Divine impersonal love for mankind is manifested in three phases:

- Common grace for all mankind
- Delaying mankind's final verdict at the Great White Throne judgment (Rom. 2:4)
- Divine love in salvation (1 John 2:2)

All throughout our temporary stay in the world, God's logistical blessings from the justice of God continues to shower upon every believer regardless of spiritual status. Every blessing and every curse comes from the justice of God never from God's love. God's love for the believers is not understandable and perceivable only inside the divine power and love system.

#### THE LOVE OF MEN FOR GOD

God's love for each member of the human history is the only perfect love in the entire universe. God's love for members of the human history is often not understood. Human love for God is always the source of tremendous pains and sufferings.

The human love for God is the source of terrible problems and delusions because of the following facts:

- The spiritually dead unbeliever cannot love God.
- Loving God is associated with knowing God.
- Loving God is always related to obeying the Word of God.
- Man cannot love God with his human love

Religions have earned a lot of money by teaching humanly invented doctrines that makes people feel comfortable and approved by God. They deceitfully invented rituals, traditions, practices, and methods that relieve guilt of sin from the human souls.

The perfect God has already provided the perfect way for man to approach God. He has already created man access to God. There is no need for man to burn his body just to be accepted or approved. God accepts us on the merit of the Lord Jesus Christ not on the basis of what we have done or what we have not done.

At the cross, the Lord Jesus Christ has already forgiven man even when he did not ask for forgiveness. Even before man comes to realization that he is a sinner, Christ already paid all our sins on the cross. The sins of all men of all times were included on the cross. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5: 8).

After a person accepted the free gift of salvation, that is after we received the imputed righteousness of God, by our progressive, systematic intake of Bible doctrine we will know who and what God is. After accumulating doctrine in the soul and reaching spiritual adulthood the believer will develop his love toward God. That love is called virtue personal love, the only love that God can accept from the believer.

Virtue personal love for God demands several standard factors:

- The imputed righteousness of God in the believer
- Residence in divine power system or dynasphere
- Bible doctrine in the soul

There are four unbreakable realities related to loving God:

- To love God is know the Word of God
- To love God is to love the Word of God
- To love God is to obey the Word of God
- To love God is to love the children of God

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. (1 John 5:2) Religions have already gained vast amount of wealth by teaching that man can love God by human capability and by human resources. Human love has four flawed elements. Do you think you can love God with these four flawed characteristics?

- Sex
- Emotion
- Respect
- Thought

#### THE LOVE OF MAN FOR MAN

There are 3 major categories of human love for man:

- Pseudo Erotic love
- Virtue dependent love
- Virtue impersonal love

PSEUDO EROTIC LOVE is arrogance hidden behind a facade of emotion and hypocritical words. It uses others for personal advancement, pleasure, and self-gratification or as props to hold up one's weaknesses. It is the notorious cause of human pains and sufferings manufactured by bad decisions and personal sins. Pseudo erotic love is attracted to the physical characteristics fired by human passion and desire for sexual pleasure. It burns right away after just a quick look. It will never stop until it finds expression in self-gratification. Love is defined as sex and sex as love. Its virtue lies in the sex organs. This is the love of the homosexuals and lesbians, the love of sex-hungry men and women.

ROMANCE is human personal love for one or more member of the opposite sex with the primary purpose of physical enjoyment. Some romantic relationships lasted and survived the many storms of life, built-up by trial and errors of formula for ideal family. Majority of romantic relationship starts from primarily physical attraction and developing into emotional attachment bypassing rational and reality.

In some cases it defies authority and anything on its way just for its fulfillment. In most cases it is idealistic without truth. In most cases, it dies naturally after losing sight of the virtue it adores. It loves the loveable and what it likes, and dies when what it likes is gone.

FRIENDSHIP is a personal admiration for the members of either sex with the primary purpose of enjoying physical presence and companionship. Like the virtue-dependent romantic love, the virtue-dependent friendship is selfish, idealistic, and conceited. It is selfish because it is after what it can get. It is idealistic because it hold-on on its demands and desires, requiring it's subject to irrationally submit. It is conceited because it thinks that he is the most loveable person in the whole universe.

Such relationship may survive many storms of life but only until it gets what it wants and what it likes. It is shaken by turmoil of complicating personalities and many disagreements of life and principles. It uses the wiles, threatening and compromises. Always, someone has to take all the pains and suffering.

VIRTUE-IMPERSONAL LOVE expresses strength that belongs exclusively to spiritual adult believer as result of his personal knowledge of God stabilized by Bible doctrine in the soul. This is the love of believer learned, developed and enhanced by consistent, systematic and progressive intake of doctrine that passed the fire of preventive suffering.

Virtue-impersonal love is the love commanded for the believers to love our fellow brethren, our enemies, and the people around us. It is the love of man for his fellowmen recognized and approved by God. This love is the integral part of the spiritual autonomy, the most versatile problem-solving device in the divine plan of God (1 Corinthians 13:13). It is sustained by the power of the filling of the Holy Spirit, fueled by depth Bible doctrine resources in the soul. It is the believer capacity for life, love and true happiness, equipping them for the most intense suffering that involves people.

In this section, we are going to take a deeper look on THE LOVE OF MAN FOR MAN under three general headings:

- Impersonal & Personal Human Love
- The Perilous Human Love Affair
- The Command For Christian to Love

#### IMPERSONAL AND PERSONAL HUMAN LOVE

Both in Greek and English language, love is a transitive verb; it takes both a subject and an object. The subject is the one who loves; the object is the one loved the recipient of love. In the sentence I love you, "I" is the subject, and "you" is the object.

This distinction between subject and object explains the two basic types of genuine love that exist between members of the human race. When the emphasis is on the subject (the one who loves) it is called impersonal love.

When the emphasis is on the object (the one who is loved): it is called personal love.

- The subject: the one who loves
- The object: the one who is loved

Impersonal love depends on the honor and virtue of the one who loves. Personal love depends on the beauty, attractiveness, capacity and response of the one who is loved.

Impersonal love does not require familiarity, closeness, friendliness or even acquaintance with the object of love. A close relationship between the subject and object may exist but not necessary.

Impersonal love is simply the consistent function of your own human virtue toward other people. The impersonal love can be directed toward friends, enemies, loved ones and even strangers toward the entire human race.

Personal love requires knowledge of the object with some degree of intimacy. The object of personal love must be attractive to you, share basic value with you, and have capacity to love you in return. Only a selected few qualify as objects of your personal love, but all mankind can be the object of your impersonal love.

Personal love is designed for relations with a few selected desirable close people, while Impersonal love is designed to benefit the human race. Personal love is very discriminating; whereas impersonal love is by no means discriminate anyone. Personal love is conditional, but impersonal love is unconditional. Personal love creates weaknesses. You bring your own problems into any personal relationship, and so does the one you love.

In personal love, the problems, shortcomings, faults, and sins of two people are combined and multiplied. Your vulnerability to the influence of the one you love can spawn subjectivity and the mental attitude sins (like jealousy, self-pity, bitterness). Therefore, personal love is emotionally stimulating, complicated with impulsiveness, fickle-mindedness and capriciousness that lovers cannot control.

Human personal love is often turbulent and frustrating. It is never stronger than the virtue of those involved. Personal love cannot pass the test of time, conflicts, crisis and storms of human relationship. This is the reason why two persons attracted to each other in the beginning will end either in separation, divorce or freezing relationship. Nothing can make it last except virtue impersonal love.

An enduring personal love depends on virtue of impersonal love. Human personal love is not a virtue but a problem-manufacturing affair of the heart. Impersonal love is the virtue that alone can make stronger and stabilize personal love. The only variable under human control in impersonal love is the mental attitude of the believer. Whereas personal love may lead to compromise of true norms and standards, impersonal love never compromise virtue.

Impersonal love for mankind is the result of your advancing relationship with God; on the other hand, personal love is the distraction from what is most important issue of the human life, that is Bible doctrine. Personal love by itself is a problem while impersonal love is a problem-solver.

In 1 Corinthians 13:13 impersonal love furnishes the ultimate Christian virtue. Impersonal love furnishes the perfect environment for faith and hope. Virtue impersonal love is mandatory while personal love is optional.

Personal love is certainly legitimate and potentially wonderful, but it is virtue-dependent, hanging on virtue of impersonal love, which represents the highest degree of integrity of the soul. For this reason, Satan is working hard in keeping believers away from the truth of Bible doctrine. The devil is an enthusiastic supporter of personal love and successfully deceiving many.

#### I LOVE YOU

- I: is the subject
- Love: is the transitive Verb
- You: is the object

The believer with impersonal love does not rely on the object of his love for strength and support because he is sustained by Bible doctrine in his soul. No variables or unreliable are involved except those controlled by his self-determination. Based on his decisions over an extended period of time in learning and applying Bible doctrine, he can cope up with the problems of the personal love and maintain a marvelous relationship with another person, or he can content alone.

Such spiritually mature believer (those with maximum Bible doctrine in the soul) can function without fail in any given situation whether faced with hostility, admiration, antagonism or whatsoever. His attitude of impersonal love does not depend on emotional stimulation, attraction or what he can get in return.

He cannot be influenced or manipulated by flattery or human approbation. He does not depend on advices or counseling of his others. The Bible doctrine in his soul gives him strength and wisdom to live his own life before the Lord. He is genuinely humble and teachable yet he is not controlled by what anyone else thinks, says or does.

Personal love emphasizes the object, it demands attraction in the object, requires close personal acquaintance or intimacy, it is directed toward selected few, it is conditional, virtue dependent, volatile, vulnerable, surrounded by uncontrollable variables, it depends on virtue love, problem maker, and optional. Impersonal love gives emphasis on the object, demands integrity in the subject, requires no personal acquaintance, unconditional, virtue, strong, stable with variables in control, depends on Bible doctrine in the soul, problem-maker and it is mandatory.

#### THE PERILOUS HUMAN LOVE AFFAIR

Love (impersonal) is a many splendor thing but personal love is a perilous thing. There are many factors to think about and consider related to personal love.

Personal love is not the solution to most of human problems like identity crisis or aloneness. Majority of young people are thinking that a love affair can ease their undefined struggles. The object of their love becomes an avid but ignorant listener of problems of the subject. The subject expects the one he loves to provide the necessary remedy such as lollipops and roses, sex and kisses. Such personal (either pseudo-erotic or virtue dependent romantic) love can only manufacture more problems.

Beware of the human viewpoint that advocates compatibility because no two persons are alike in temperament, in inner nature and composure, and character. Basically, there are points of similarity but it does not give any assurance of harmonious marriage life.

Two persons with old sin (OSN) nature cannot be at peace all the time. There is war in the world because there are people with OSN. People, including carnal, reversionist, and immature believer will search for happiness in the cosmic system, since they lack the genuine happiness that comes only from God. Their minds are occupied with the world and with the things of the world, so they cannot in any way escape the corruption.

They indulge their souls in the treasure and pleasures of the world without giving consideration for their spiritual life. The root cause of the problem is the lack of virtue personal love for God and impersonal love for man. The Christian good relationship with men is fortified by his relationship with God through the merits of Christ.

The citizens of heaven must be aware of the traps laid by Satan to destroy the believers who are still in the world but not of the world. Look out for this falling debris of the cosmos disbolicus:

- Matchmakers around you
- Love & Marriage counselors
- Cosmic preachers
- Radio & TV personalities
- Uninvited advisers
- Christian books on love

A love affair that involved an unbeliever is not only wrong but also fatal. It is like playing with explosives that might explode anytime. God commanded the believers not to compromise their divine viewpoint that is what exactly means by Do not be equally yoked with the unbelievers. Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnerships have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? (2 Cor. 6:14)

The prohibition not to be bound with unbelievers is a warning for believers not to build a factory of problems that will continue to operate for a long time even the rest of his life. Some expect God to intervene and save their lovers to relief their pains and miseries.

The believer who has knowledge of this doctrine and defy the Word of God by marrying an unbeliever will suffer the rest of his life. Since personal love is a compromise, it will somehow please the believer for sometime. The lover will attend the Bible study just to please the Christian, but it will not last long after the wedding day. The love of the world has nothing to do with the love that comes from God.

The truth of the Bible doctrine has nothing to do with human viewpoint or with the satanic policy of good and evil. The imputed divine righteousness and eternal life in you has nothing to do with the unregenerate soul of your lover.

#### COMMANDED TO LOVE

Impersonal love, generated in the believer's soul no matter whom he encounters, is the only type of love that can fulfill the divine commands to love all believers and everyone else. Believers are commanded to love (with impersonal love) four categories of people:

- Our Christian neighbors
- Our enemies
- Our literal neighbors
- Everyone else

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, (virtue impersonal love) even as I have loved you, (Divine personal love) that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another (virtue impersonal love) (John 13:34-35).

We are not commanded to do the one of the most impossible thing, to love all believers with personal love. The only love you can possess for most individuals is based, not on their weaknesses, idiosyncrasies, or what the world called incompatibility with you, but on the strength of your own character.

Through impersonal love your attitude toward everyone will be basically the same manifested in courtesy, thoughtfulness, sensitivity to the feelings of others, tolerance, and flexibility in nonessential areas of disagreement or dispute. Such mental attitudes can be constantly maintained toward any believer. The Christian love is not arrogant, hypocritical, selfish, and self-righteous. (Romans 12:9)

Impersonal love is not cold, rigid, insensitive, artificial, and emotionless facade, but a gracious mental attitude consistent with Bible doctrine in your soul and fired by the filling of the Holy Spirit. The policy of impersonal love is: Virtue toward all, no matter who or what they are.

Through this good policy of impersonal love toward all men, your spiritual aristocracy or nobility is revealed as you honorably represent Jesus Christ in the devil's world. Impersonal love is not directed only toward the believers but toward unbelievers as well. We are commanded to love our neighbors (Christians and unbelievers alike) from genuine Christian virtues deep down in a heart saturated with Bible doctrine (Mark 12:31).

"The second is this, `you shall love your neighbor as yourself (from your own virtue of impersonal love) There is no other commandment greater than these." "You have heard that it was said, `You shall love your neighbor, (virtue impersonal love) and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, (virtue impersonal love) and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, (personal love) what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? (Matthew 5:43-46)

The divine mandates to love everyone command us to develop virtue by daily intake of Bible doctrine and to live with the people around us by the integrity that is in us.



For every divine mandate for believers, God has also provided all that we need to function and fulfill His command. Human virtue-dependent personal love between people is always in conflict. Virtue personal love when misdirected toward man is idolatry.

Love was the motivation behind the greatest sacrifice this universe has ever witnessed. Without love that provision would not have been made. Jesus explained to Nicodemus in John 3:16, that God had such an infinite love and compassion on the souls of men whom He created, “that He gave His only begotten [uniquely born] Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but has eternal life.” The Apostle Paul recorded in Romans 5:8, how God, even down to this very day “keeps on exhibiting and giving proof of His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Spiritual love is the love of God, it is His love produced in us by the Holy Spirit. We must begin our study by recognizing that there are four words for love in the Koine Greek.

(Eros)-- is a love having its basis in passion. Eros was used by the pagan Greeks for sexual love; as a proper noun it was the name of the Greek god of love, the son of Aphrodite (Babylonian mystery of the mother and child). Its expression takes the form of blind impulse produced by passion. The Greeks defined eros as- an overwhelming passion seizing upon and absorbing into itself the whole mind.

(Phileo)-- is rapport and compatibility, the love of friendship and affection. It is based on an inner community between the subject and the object, such as desirability, attractiveness, stimulating personality, shared likes and dislikes, etc. Both subject and object have things in common, the one loving finds a reflection of his own nature in that which he loves. Phileo is a love drawn out as a response to the pleasure one takes in a person or thing. It is the love of fondness, the infatuation of which daydreams are made.

Oftentimes relying solely on reciprocation to exist, it is inconsistent, unstable, and as weak as water, having no virtue and integrity of its own. For this ‘personal love’ to have virtue, it must reside within the integrity envelope of spiritual love!

(Storge)-- is familial love, the natural affection which exists between parents and children, brothers and sisters, etc. This is the love which animals have for their offspring, the care that animal shows for their offspring. This love is essentially the binding factor of social units.

(Agape)-- is divine love produced by God the HS, unconditional and sacrificial in nature. It is the love with which Christ loves us, a love of complete self-sacrifice, even to the point of death to self, a death offered in exchange for one who bitterly hates the one who loves. Philein-- from which we get the noun philos and the verb phileo-- in one of its various forms is used around forty-five times in the NT. Agapan-- from which we get the noun agape and the verb agapao-- is used over three hundred times. The disparity in usage between the two is due to the fact that philein was the common word for love in the classics, and agapan the uncommon.

However, when the Greek and Macedonian troops of Alexander the Great spread Hellenistic Greek over most of the known world, and it became the international language, agapan suddenly sprang into ascendancy. Agapan then became the common and general word for love in the time of the NT. These two words are not synonymous, nor are they used indiscriminately, therefore, whenever we see philein, or phileo, what it tells us is that the writer went out of his way to use a word that was not in common use because he desired to convey a thought not contained in agapan.

There is also another reason for the frequent use of agapan. Agapan was never what we might call a ‘common’ word in classical literature, although it was in use from the beginning and occupied a distinctive place of its own.

In fact, the form agape, which is the one we see most often in the NT, does not occur at all. Its first appearance is in the Greek translation of the OT in the 3rd cent. BC. Owing to the infrequency of its use, it was the perfect vehicle to convey the new and higher concept of divine love which the NT presents.

Its relative emptiness, so far as the knowledge of the person who spoke Greek as his second language was concerned, made it the ideal receptacle into which the spiritual content of Christianity could be poured. It's important for us to understand that the pagan Greeks knew nothing of the love of self-sacrifice for one's enemy, nothing of the love which God displayed in His Son on Calvary's Cross. Therefore, they had no word for that kind of love. They knew nothing about the divine analysis of this love which Paul gives us in 1 Corinthians 13. So the NT writers, inspired by God the HS, seized upon agape as the one word that would express these noble-concepts.

Agape love and the attributes of God: Love is an essential component of God's nature. The Apostle John says in 1 John 4:8, "...God is love." Love relates to all other areas of divine essence. Love provided the way for us to know God. It was love that made possible the plan of salvation. Sovereignty without love would be tyranny. Absolute righteousness and perfect justice-- God's Integrity, His Holiness-- without love would send all of us straight to an eternal lake of fire.

Eternal life without love, in comparison to man-- who is born spiritually dead-- would mean no fellowship with God. Each one of the omni-attributes without love would work to our definite disadvantage. God is immutable; humans are fickle and changeable; inconsistent. God is veracity or absolute truth and man, by nature, is a liar. The nature of man, being totally depraved, instinctively heads for the ways of the world-- the Cosmos Diablocus, which is ruled by Satan, who is the "father of lies." Without love, we find nothing in the area of divine essence but condemnation for mankind.

Love is the great commandment of the Church Age, without it no other can be fulfilled. In John 13:34-35 of the Upper Room Discourse, Jesus, speaking in anticipation of the CA, said to the disciples, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you [unconditionally and sacrificially], that you also love one another. By this [this uncompromising spiritual love for one another] all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Love is the true test of discipleship, not religious obedience! Not ritual without reality. The Pharisee's had outward obedience and yet no love for anyone but themselves. Listen to the Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 1:5-8, "Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply [he gives us seven things here; 1] moral excellence [arete- 'virtue'], and in {your} moral excellence, [2] knowledge; and in {your} knowledge, [3] self-control, and in {your} self-control, [4] perseverance, and in {your} perseverance, [5] godliness [function of spirituality]; and in {your} godliness, [6] brotherly kindness, and in {your} brotherly kindness, [7] love. For if these {qualities} are yours and are increasing [through spiritual growth in / plan of God], they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Peter is saying that love is the end result, the final product of virtue built into the soul through these seven steps of spiritual advance. This is agape, the love which Paul so often speaks of, the love which he took great pains to define for us in 1 Corinthians 13. It is not an emotion, it is not based on how you "feel," it is a passion for man's divine and ultimate good-- his salvation and his growth in grace.

Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:5 that "the goal of" all "our instruction"-- the telos, the objective, the end of the race, the final destination of the life of faith-- is agape. It is the greatest motivator, and the most enduring power in the universe. Everything else in life will fail, but love never will. Love is the highest spiritual achievement and virtue. It is the expression of spiritual maturity.

Love is the key to the Protocol Plan of God. Without love for God which is demonstrated by our attitude toward His Word and our obedience to it-- we will never fully see, understand or appreciate that everything that happens in life to the advancing believer is wrought together for the ultimate good.

In Romans 8:28, Paul say's that without a shadow of a doubt, "...we know [oida- with an absolute knowledge] that God causes all things [including pain, sorrow, rejection and loss] to work together for the good [agathos- divine good] to those who love God [mature and / or maturing believers], to those who are called according to {His} purpose [predetermined plan]."

Life in the spiritual realm is built on absolutes. Everything changes! The Cosmic System in which we live is order working its way out to disorder. In Greek thought and philosophy the opposite of kosmos is chaos. God's character is absolute, His will is absolute, His plan is absolute and it never changes. Period! Here is the principle: God's Word is absolute; it is the Rock upon which we must anchor every aspect of life.

Spiritual love is patient, and patience is a long-enduring of the soul without reacting or making bad decisions. Always remember, the spiritual battlefield is in your soul, not in external sufferings or circumstances! If you have spiritual love, the fruit of Christian virtue and integrity, then you have divine patience, and if you have divine patience, you can endure anything without defeat!

There are various ways in which God reveals to us who is the right man or right woman of His choice. Suffice to say that when we are waiting for God, His love's revelation comes in perfect time and is clearly identifiable. Why is it important to marry a believer? What are the advantages of marrying a believer in contrast to the unbeliever?

Basic Principles for selecting your lifetime mate:

- Always think before you make any decisions and make sure your judgments are not null or void.
- Before you become emotional involved, be sure you are growing up in the spiritual life and applying Bible doctrine.
- Resist all the temptation to choose an unbeliever
- Do not get into a relationship or marry in your spiritual immaturity.
- Never get into a relationship because of your sexual desire or passion, or marry because of your sexual desire.
- Never get into a relationship because of social pressure or economic necessity.

Brotherly love insures the serenity of mind that lays the foundation for toleration, flexibility, courtesy, and thoughtfulness of others. These manifestations of virtue become stronger and more consistent as the believer advances in learning Bible doctrine under the power of the Spirit. In the absence of doctrine, the old sin nature dominates the inner spiritual conflict for control of the soul, and the apostle Paul warns

The term mixed marriage could easily be used to describe a marriage between two people of difference races, eg. between a Caucasian and a Negro. Perhaps in a country such as South Africa that is what is meant. But for Christians the term mixed marriage has come to refer to a marriage between a Christian and a non-Christian, between a believer and an unbeliever.

In the New Testament, the issue of mixed marriages between a believer and an unbeliever has greater consequence and potential for blessings or misfortunes. The majority of Church Age believers are ignorant of this doctrine and some are simply naive and passive. Marriage is one decision that always affect the entire lifetime of a believer and has greater contribution for destiny of every believer. Marriage is not for everyone (and so is singleness).

There are wide advantages and disadvantages in both but there is greater opportunity for the unmarried believers to advance in their

spiritual life (1 Cor. 7:8, 32-34). However, marriage or singleness is not a problem when it comes to our relationship with God. The only real issue is the volition of the believer whether he is married or single (1 Cor. 7:35).

When it comes to choosing a lifetime partner for a believer, God leaves almost everything to the desire and preference of the believer except the fact that the partner must be also be a believer. Someone who will be a help mate not a competitor, not a rival and never an enemy but a complement and a helpmate throughout his lifetime on earth.

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?

For you is the temple of the living God. God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

First: Marrying a believer is an act of obedience of God's choice for us (2 Cor. 6:14). When it comes to God's mandates, we just obey without second thought. Choosing the best the world can offer is no substitute for the will of God. It is the will of God that believers marry a believer not a prospect believer. A general observation: Seldom we see a believer who has married an unbeliever and after several years also received the free gift of salvation. The unbeliever partner almost always finds salvation after the death of the Christian partner. God will use the unbeliever partner as divine discipline for the Christian partner.

Choosing a believer to marry is an act of rejecting the fellowship with Satan, the world and human viewpoint. It is an announcement of rejection of demonic doctrines, human systems and resources.

Second: Marrying a believer put the believer in position of enjoying God' sdesire and design for marriage. Marriage is designed and desired by God (Genesis 2:18) for several purposes:

- Human sexual pleasure
- Human partnership
- Human procreation
- Human parenthood (Gen. 1:28)

Marriage is always in danger of sexual immorality without Christ and Bible doctrine in the souls of both couples (see Tract No. 54). The unbeliever is not in a position and lacking capacity to keep marriage in honor (Hebrews 13:4). Some mistake marriage for sexual pleasures, others think that marriage is a place of competition and revenge.

Marriage is determined by God (Gen. 2:21-24). Our minds are distorted by various concepts of marriage contrary to biblical teaching especially by unmarried cultic experts. A wedding has spiritual value or significance only when both the wife and husband are believers. The spiritual bonding of marriage occurred not during the so-called Christian wedding ceremony but the very moment when the two human beings has become one in the sight of God. God is the Advocate and Defender of marriage (Genesis 2:24) the marriage contract is not the essence of marriage but it is necessary for believers.

Third: Marrying a believer puts you in spiritual capacity for obeying God's purpose for marriage (Ephesians 5:21-31). Only a believer can love his wife or her husband the way Christ's loved the Church:

- Realistically
- Sacrificially
- Willfully
- Absolutely

Only the grace of God operative in the redeemed soul of the husband can make him rule his wife in love. Only the grace of God in the redeemed soul of the wife can make her submit to her husband in love. This virtue impersonal love comes from imputed righteousness at the point of salvation and ignited by daily and progressive intake of Bible doctrine in or out of seasons.

Fourth: Marrying a believer can free you from common problems of marriages such as vices, crimes, defiance of rules, laws and regulations, immorality, and many more. Marrying an unbeliever is open invitation for self-made miseries and horrible divine discipline. Fifth: Marrying a believer puts you in position to receive tremendous blessings of spiritual maturity (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

The opposite is always true for a Christian with an unbelieving partner. An unbeliever husband or wife will always torture and harass the Christian partner. Misunderstanding in many situations is unavoidable and unexplainable. The unbeliever has no spiritual blessings and resources which make life more difficult and torturous. The Christian partner will become the center of all the blames, the escape goat for all the miseries of the unbelieving partner.

He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD (Prov. 18:22). But what is it that makes a wife (or a husband) good? A good wife (a husband) is one who is able to help you in honoring the purpose of marriage (Divine establishment of marriage) with Bible Doctrine in the soul of both spouse put into application of daily life existence.

Brotherly love, the sixth member of the chorus line, is a system of thinking. We do not need to experience any kind of special feeling to manifest this love for members of the Royal family of God, but we must avoid mental attitude sins in order to fulfill the command, "Love one another." Rom 12:10 says, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor."

#### 50 Preventions for Problematic Relationship:

- A believer should not enter into a relationship and marry an unbeliever.
- A positive volition believer should not enter into a relationship and marry a negative volition believer.
- Do not enter into a relationship an emotionally unstable person.
- Do not enter into a relationship to solve your present problems.
- Do not enter into a relationship a person because of sexual libido and sexual appetite.
- Do not enter into a relationship to escape an unhappy home.
- Do not enter into a relationship a person for status symbol, popularity or prestige.
- Do not enter into a relationship out of infatuation and attraction.
- Do not enter into a relationship out of pity and compassion.
- Do not enter into a relationship for financial security.
- Do not enter into a relationship because of beauty or physical attractiveness.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person of different spiritual belief and conviction.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person with problematic mentality and thought pattern.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who has different financial viewpoint and policy.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who is not physically acceptable to you.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who has different kinds of recreation.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who is making you feel guilty or sorrowful.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who is motivates attention through arousing pity.

- Do not enter into a relationship with a person whose priority in life is money.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who is only after sexual activities. Do not give sex to gain love.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who rejects and resists legitimate authority.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who cannot take responsibility for his own actions.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who has addiction problem.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who cannot handle and solve his own problems.
- Do not enter into a relationship because of peer pressure.
- Do not enter into a relationship or marry to escape some responsibility.
- Do not enter into a relationship in search of happiness that will become unrealistic expectations.
- Do not enter into a relationship because of your friends.
- Do not enter into a relationship because there is nothing else to do.
- Do not enter into a relationship or marry for religious reasons.
- Do not enter into a relationship out of pity and sympathy.
- Do not enter into a relationship in hurry as if that person is the last one to come along.
- Do not enter into a relationship a disloyal and cheating person.
- Do not enter into a relationship a person who is trying to change you.
- Do not enter into a relationship to get revenge on another person.
- Do not enter into a relationship out of intimacy without commitment.
- Do not enter into a relationship for sexual gratification and exploration.

- Do not enter into a relationship with someone looking for maternal affection.
- Do not enter into a relationship with person who demands all your attention.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who treats her/his mother like a mate.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who is habitually drunk.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who is always reminding your past faults and mistakes.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who regards girls as bitches and slut without respect.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who sexually aggressive and overly flirts with others.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who does stupid things to call your attention.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who is hypersensitive to criticism or disapproval of others.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who gives continual review about the past relationship.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who demands to much adoration, approbation and all out attention.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who keeps emotions as “top secret” from pretending everything is alright.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who treats you as an enemy, deprived you the respect, honor and acceptance you deserves.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who has history of violence or harassment towards others.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who has no respect and reverence toward God and the Word of God though very active with religious activities.
- Do not enter into a relationship with a person who failed to manifests the spiritual fruit of the Holy Spirit in life and as well in experience.

#### FORGIVING AND FORGETTING THE PERSON WHO DUMPED YOU:

- The pain of an ended relationship is one of those universal experiences that we all share. There's no easy way to get through it, but these steps may help.
- Remembering the person is not very hard, not to think of the person is extremely impossible. Being dumped is one of the worst feelings on earth.
- The worst part is knowing that while your ex boyfriend or ex girlfriend is off living happily with a new sweetheart, but you can't stop thinking and caring. The idea itself is completely contradictory.
- However, there are times in our lives in which we often want to relieve a feeling or memory of someone else to ease our emotional stress. It is possible to do this but also very difficult.
- These are decisions you need to agree with: You were dumped, left behind; and don't convince yourself that you were not.
- If you are the one who is left, sticking with your decision, at this point, there is only one commitment, leaving a relationship behind.
- You need to accept what she (he) has said to you, and you are history to her (him). Don't cry over a woman (man) who doesn't truly love you. It's okay to grieve for a time.
- Seek support from your friends and family as you come to terms with the changes in your life. Throw away all the things that keep you remind her, and don't ever listen to the songs that make you remind of her (him).
- Try to remember this person first completely. Ask yourself what the plus values of her (him) for you to remember it. Ask the minus value and remember it very well.
- Why remember someone who has intentionally forgotten you. Do not be so emotional. Do waste your tears for someone who will not cry for you. She (he) will make you cry again if you let her.

- Minimize your communication with this person, give yourself time and distance away will limit your thought of this person.
- Do not dwell in your mind with this person, do something, be on the move, think of your task and not of this person. Find something essential endeavor, like a new sport or hobby.
- Unwind and try to have fun. Avoid stressful and highly emotional activity that will bring you into a melancholic memory of her (him). Be kind to yourself by not hurting yourself again.
- Keep a distance, stay away from this person. (Remember, once a player is always a player. Once a cheater is always a cheater, once a liar is always a liar)
- Always remind yourself that you are moving forward and getting out of miserable situation where she (he) dragged you in. You need to move on, believe on yourself.
- Broken heart will not kill you, although you might wish you were dead. There are other beautiful women (men), who will accept you!
- Do not let yourself think that you are not attractive, or that you will never find someone better. There is always someone better, just wait a little.
- Don't look at past relationships as failures, but rather consider it as an opportunity to learn and improve your relationship skills.
- Your value comes from who you are, not who you are with, or not from what people say you.
- Treat yourself to a special gift now and then. You are a special person and you deserve it. Love and honor yourself.
- There's more to life than romantic love. Take this opportunity to nurture your friends, family and self
- Take some time to re-examine what you need in a relationship. Have you been choosing partners who are not capable of a loving, mature and long term relationship?

- Be willing to take another chance on love. Like they say, you can't win if you don't play. Don't close the doors; somebody is just about to knock. Be a friend to yourself.
- If you care about yourself, the odds are better you will attract those you care about you too. Don't try to get revenge.
- This will only slow your progress in healing from the hurt. Forgive yourself. You can't change the past, but you can learn from your mistakes and not repeat them.
- Forgive your ex. This doesn't mean that you are saying what happened is okay.
- What it means is cutting your losses and not investing any more time in something that hurts you. Unforgiving heart doubles your loss.
- Don't try to get revenge. This will only slow your progress in healing from the hurt.
- Forgive yourself. You can't change the past, but you can learn from your mistakes and not repeat them.
- Healing your hurt is important because this is what restores your peace of mind.
- The process of healing depends on one's mental attitude and Bible doctrine frame of reference in the soul.
- Lack of doctrine in the soul may take a long period of healing and endless miseries.
- Stress is a mental attitude pressurized by the immediate events, situation, problems, crisis, or even the normal routine of life. The normal routine when added with pressure becomes stressful details of life. Stress is not part or included in the plan of God for the imperfect man.
- Execute the recovery systems of God. Confess your sin, walk in the plan of God and wait for God to send you a person who can love you with the love that comes from Christ.
- Continue your walk in the plan of God and aim for becoming an invisible hero with historical and angelic impact.