

## How To Be A Great Lover

1 Corinthians, Vol. 26

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1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The Greek word adopted by the Holy Spirit for the unique kind of love God shows and God commands is pronounced *agapē*. From *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* by W. E. Vine:

“Love can be known only from the actions it prompts. God's love is seen in the gift of His Son (1 John 4:9-10). But obviously this is not the love of complacency or affection, that is, it was not drawn out by the excellency in its objects (Romans 5:8). It was an exercise of the divine will in deliberate choice made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself.”

“Christian love, whether exercised toward the brethren or toward men generally, is not an impulse from the feelings, it does not always run with the natural inclinations, nor does it spend itself only on those for whom some affinity is discovered. Love seeks the welfare of all and works no ill to any; love seeks opportunity to do good 'to all men and especially toward them that are of the household of God' (Gal. 6:10).”

1 Corinthians 13:4–7: *Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

**All 15** descriptions of love are **verbs**. Love cannot be defined in a static way, as with an adjective. *Agapē* is always an action. If you think about it, this makes perfect sense. You cannot command anyone to feel a certain way, but you *can* command an action. God shows His love by how He acts.

John 3:16: *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.*

Romans 5:8: *But God **demonstrates His own love** toward us, **in that** while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.***

Powerful emotions of affection can and should be part of your life as a Christian. But *agapē* is something you must **do**. Positive feelings of affection are a fringe benefit of commitment to the kind of action that demonstrates the love of God. Keep in mind, it is possible—and necessary—to love someone though you have no feelings for him or her and it is possible to fail to love someone for whom you have strong feelings.

**How To Be A Great Lover**  
**15 Facets Of The Love Diamond**

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1. **Love is** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Love is** \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Love is not** \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Love does not** \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 5:7: *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, . . .*

5. **Love is not** \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:21: . . . *and be subject [literally, **being subject**] to one another in the fear of Christ.*

6. **Love does not** \_\_\_\_\_

7. **Love does not** \_\_\_\_\_

Paul's example is 1 Corinthians 10:33: . . . *just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.*

8. **Love is not** \_\_\_\_\_

9. **Love does not** \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:19: *Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.*

10. **Love does not** \_\_\_\_\_

11. **Love** \_\_\_\_\_

12. **Love** \_\_\_\_\_

13. **Love** \_\_\_\_\_

14. **Love** \_\_\_\_\_

15. **Love** \_\_\_\_\_

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**To be a Great Lover** and see these things on display in your life, you need to be willing to let go of things. You need to be willing to be vulnerable. But it's worth it!

Matthew 16:24-25: *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."*

Ephesians 3:20-21: *Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*