

2024 Happy Mother's Day. While we certainly want to magnify motherhood today, I recognize that this is also a very tough day for some of you ...Some of you probably didn't want to come to church on Mother's Day because your mother is no longer alive and you really miss her. Perhaps some of you have not had the best mother and there are unhealed wounds and you're a bit turned off by all the syrupy sentiments in Hallmark cards.

I know there are women here who would give anything just to have a child but you can't for some reason ...Some of you mothers have lost a child to death and today is especially hard for you.... Some of you mothers feel the pain of a wayward child this morning, and some live with the regrets of some of your decisions and how they have effected your children...

And, some of you are flying solo as you work hard to nurture your child's faith ...Some of you may have a mother who is very sick right now and you wonder how much longer she's going to be with you....Maybe you're a single dad and hurt for your kids as they struggle to find out why their mother has hurt them so much. and some of us were the easiet kids for our mom's and looking back regret the pain we caused them at times in our lives...

As a way to honor mothers this morning, we gave you a a little gift as you entered service today,God bless you mom's.... It's not easy to be a mom.

A mother was talking to an old college friend and said, "I remember before I was married that I had three theories about raising children. Now I have three children and no theories."

Being a mother is not a walk in the park...

By the time a child reaches 18, a mother has had to handle some extra 18,000 hours of child-generated work. In fact, women who never have children enjoy the equivalent of an extra three months a year in leisure time!

[No greater compliment can be paid to motherhood than God comparing His great love for us with the tender, compassionate love of](#)

a godly mother toward her children. This is exemplified by a Mother's life long emotional, affectionate love toward their child...in life and death... Paul writes us this...

Eph 3: ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully.

Paul tells us that God's fullness of love toward his children..."(whom he calls God's people) ... is all encompassing and that we should experience this..... those it is more than we can understand fully

- that it is so wide and long (length) and high (space) and deep (time) ...which covers the four dimensions of our existence on earth height width and depth and time.....and this love roots us..is our foundation... and that this love surpasses our ability to understand.....(**an understanding of the mind**) for this love encompasses more than that... which will bring it to fullness in our lives...
- **Well to begin to understand the fullness of the love of God we have to understand the word love...in English we have one spelling of the word for love**
- ...but the meaning varies... I love pizza...I love you brother...I love my wife...I love my children...all the same love, but have different meanings...I love pizza and I love my wife do not mean the same kind of love...
- However in Greek the language the New Testament was written in ...love has four different words representing different aspects of love.

Tim put these up

1. **Eros** generally had to do with **Romantic love**. From this term derives the English "erotic." This word, however, is not found in the New Testament.
2. **A very common word for love during the apostolic age was **philia/phileo**. It is the word of genuine affection – Deep Friendship love**. Jesus had this kind of love for his closest disciple, John

NLT John 20: 2 She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus **loved**....

- And Lazarus

ESV John 11: 3 3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”

also it is the love which distinguishes a close friend...

ESV John 15:15 No longer do I call you servants,^[a] for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

- **We are so close I tell you the personal things My father shared with me...you are my dear friends**
- **We are loved by Jesus as dear Friends... ..it is part of the fullness of God's love toward us...**

Tim put this up

3. Then the word *agape*. *Agape* describes a different kind of love. It is a love more of *decision* it chooses to love the undeserving. *Agape* really doesn't have much to do with *feelings* - it has to do with *decisions*.

- **It is the way God loves the world...in general...by world he means people...saved and unsaved...**

ESV John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

***Agape* has to do with the mind: it is not simply an emotion which rises unbidden in our hearts; *Agape* love gives and loves because it wants to and decides too..; it does not demand or expect repayment from the love given. It gives because it loves, it does not love in order to receive**

- **The word has much to do with self-denial for the sake of another.**
- **It is a love that loves without changing.**
- **It is a love that gives without demanding or expecting re-payment.**
- **It is love so great that it can be given to the unlovable or unappealing.**
- **It is love that loves even when it is rejected.**

Agape has to do with the mind: it is not simply an emotion which rises unbidden in our hearts; it is a principle by which one deliberately lives” (New Testament Words, p. 21).

Marriage is the highest form of agape love you can give to another person ...it is a love based on your word to love the other period!!!

The exchange of vows at a wedding, is your word to love...by a choice of the will...when we say I do and I will...

I do love you in a commitment, as I will not love anyone else...my word to agape you

Agape Love is exemplified and summed up in 1 Cor 13

NLT 1 Corinthians 13 13 If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. ³ If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it;^[a] but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

NIV ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

agape love is greater than all for it continues beyond all things...even faith and hope...

- **This is God's word to you...it is part of the fullness the Triune God toward us!! He loves you as a decision!!**

****but there is more....Remember when we started today Paul writes that he wants us to understand the fullness of Gods love for us...

- Paul tells us that God's fullness of love toward us ...surpasses Phileo...Dear Friend love... and Unconditional choice of the will to love us...
- Tim put this up

***4. The fourth Greek word we need to understand is storge, which is the love and affection that occurs between parents and children, family love...With an emphasis on Motherly love...

- It is love driven by *blood*. *storge*, describes "emotional" love, love that comes...from the heart.... it is FELT love....it is loving from the heart...
- *Storge* is God's affectionate parental love toward his children... and is motherly in the sense that this love holds no favored children and loves them all deeply from the heart...

NIV Rom 5:5.... God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. love from God poured into the seat of our emotions and feelings the heart

- Exemplified in Romans 12:10 ...

NLT Romans 12:10 ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. *I care so much about you I want to bless you! and I want you to know it and feel it!!! Honor... honor is feeling based...*

Truly No greater compliment can be paid to motherhood than God comparing His great love for us with the tender, compassionate love of a godly mother toward her children. a Mother's emotional, affectionate love toward their child...I will provide the best I have...

Isa 66:13 As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.

- In these reassuring words we have one of the sweetest and tenderest pictures of the character of God. And that revelation is not in the New Testament, but in the Old! In the New Testament, Jesus teaches us to think of God as our Father. But here in the Old Testament, God is likened unto a comforting mother.
- The Jews have a sweet saying to the effect that “God could not be everywhere, so He made mothers.” And this is true, for a loving mother is God’s tenderest image in humanity.
- It is like the mother who had twelve children was asked which one she loved the best. Her answer: "The one who’s sick until he gets well; and the one who is away until he gets back home
- Mothers – and anyone else here that needs this reality – “God does understand your problem and He will comfort as a mother comforts

God's care is described as a mother eagle

ESV [Deuteronomy 32:11-12](#) *Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions....* Pinions are the outer part of the birds wings...when you cant fly ...he will carry you

Therefore:

- It has been said: "A father becomes concerned when his child breaks a bone....a mother when her child skins a knee!"
- Jesus compares himself to a mother hen who longs to gather her chicks together under her wings (Matt. 23:37).

NLT Matt 23: 37 “.... How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. Hold you close to me...

Motherhood is what God has designed for every person to be nurtured by, even orphans, even runaways and even those women who aren’t mothers themselves.

ESV [Isaiah 49:15](#) God compared to a nurturing mother

¹⁵ “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶ Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;

- **Though it is possible for a mother to reject her child...This is God's word and his assurance and promise...he will not look at us this way...as ruined or unacceptable...we are sons and daughters...we are given a sign and seal..your name is tattooed on his palm...this is a highly personal sign...**

And if God's children are hurt....God's response is described as a mother bear..The Mama Bear heart of God

ESV Hosea 13: ⁸ I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs; I will tear open their breast, and there I will devour them like a lion, as a wild beast would rip them open.

This is exactly what Jesus came to do... Jesus devoured sin and death...he destroyed it power to destroy us at the cross...he nailed there!!!

NLT Col 2: ¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ In this way, he disarmed^[d] the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

- **God promised to be like a mother to us. We do grow weary in this life.**
- **In a day when there is too little love, To those who feel helpless, rejected and despised, we need to pray for new hope, a new realization of what kind of God we have.**
- **We need to thank God for revealing his nature through the love of mothers and give us eyes to see and hearts to respond.**

- **We need to claim God's promise to be a "Mother" to us.**

God exercise all three kinds of love. We need *agape* love, his willful unconditional actions on our behalf...Phileo love his love to each one of us as friends...and Storge love...parental Fatherly Motherly affectionate, intimate, caring love...

So when Paul says this... *NLT Eph 3:17 And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Now you know what that love is...Receive it...depend on it...Share it!

NIV 1 John 4:16 ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.