Sunday, September 27, 2026

The Pursuit of Love— "Agape Love"

Pastor Mike Anderson

Introduction:
Today, in our fourth week of our *Pursuit of Love* sermon series, the message focuses on "agape love". God's "agape" love was his motive for sending Jesus into the world to save us from our sin and live with him forever. The three best ways to describe "agape love" are, unconditional, action oriented, and self-sacrificial. It is only as we experience and receive God's "agape love" that we can love others with His same love.

1. "Agape Love" is an <u>intentional</u> <u>choice</u>!

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last ." -John 15:16a

2. "Agape Love" is not <u>based</u> on <u>feelings!</u>

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. -1 Corinthians 13:4-7

3. "Agape Love" is <u>sacrificial</u>.

Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. -Romans 5:7-8

4. If I am not motivated by "Agape Love", my words and good deeds are <u>empty</u> and <u>meaningless.</u>

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am

nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

-1 Corinthians 13:1-3

5. As you <u>believe</u> and <u>receive</u> Jesus' "Agape Love", you will have the <u>ability</u> to love others as He loves you!

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." -John 15:9-13

Questions for Reflection:

1. Do you believe you have truly received God's unconditional love through His Son, Jesus?

2. Do you think the love you give others is more based in "agape love" or something else?

3. What are some practical ways you can demonstrate God's "agape love" to others this week? Start at home!

Remember this: while human love and the love of the world can and will fail, God's love never fails! You can count on it!