



“To Brotherly Kindness, Love”

Growing in the Faith 2018

“Make Your Call and Election Sure”

2Peter 1:5-11

Add to Philadelphia, Agapeo

2Peter 1:7 Gk. ἀγάπη, agapeo (Strong's 25):
Abiding concern. It unselfishly values, esteems
& serves without a desire to benefit.

- *Phileo* happens to us because we admire or align with someone & are emotionally drawn to them.
 - Could be based on association, stage of life, quality of character, manners or customs, similar likes, etc. It delights-in and feeds-on the benefits of the relationship.
- *Agapeo* doesn't happen to us; it is a choice we make
 - A duty, not an emotional decision.
 - A responsibility, not dependent on receiving pleasure.

Agapeo is Commanded

- **John 14:15, 15:10-14** - Can love be commanded?
 - May seem cold on the human level because it is faith-based, not feeling-based. Agapeo seeks expression in duty regardless of what may be received in the process.
- **John 12:25** - *Phileo* describes desiring this temporary existence at the cost of the eternal life.
 - Phileo depends on the object loved. It can thus wane or subside if it is not reciprocated.
- **1Peter 3:10** - *Agapeo* describes an appreciation for true, eternal life and the values that define it.
 - Agapeo does not depend on reciprocity & needs nothing in return. The opportunity to emulate God is enough.

Progressive NOT Exclusive

<u>Phileo</u>	<u>Agapeo</u>
Natural	Learned
Emotional	Voluntary
Discriminates	Indiscriminate
Takes Pleasure	Takes Responsibility
Delights	Honors
Is Because of	Is In Spite of
Fails	Never Fails

The Apostle Peter Learns

- Luke 22:14-34 - Why did Peter deny Christ?
 - Peter's affection (phileo) lacked a sense of duty (agapeo).
 - Peter may have felt phileo was more valuable, because it revealed his affection and his pleasure in their relationship.
 - **John 21:15-19** - Jesus emphasizes the distinction between phileo & agapeo to help Peter see that he would have to add to his affection a commitment to duty.
- **1Peter 1:17-22** Peter would understand later.
 - To endure the difficult times, training in selfless, unconditional love is more sure, stable, enduring.
 - To love as God is love, we must be trained to love for love's sake, independent of how we feel.

Onward Christian Soldiers

- All soldiers in combat feel anguish & fear.
 - What is the difference between those who run and those who stay and fight?
 - A healthy conscience trained to value something more than self.
 - They trust their training to do what they must do, even though every self-preserving impulse tells them rather to save themselves.
- Our trials will test us all in this same way.
 - Our affection for God & one another will not endure them.
 - Our training to do our duty will.
- Phileo is innate, but not enough.
- We must be trained in agapeo.
 - 2Peter 1:5-7 is the outline of this training.

From FAITH to LOVE

- Love believes and commits
- Love is immersed in right principles
- Love is never ignorant
- Love is never out of control
- Love lasts
- Love emulates God
- Love defines the family of God
- Love is our call and election, the assurance of our entrance into the Kingdom of God