



RELATIONSHIP GOALS



God's way

Love does not insist on its own way


13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way;

1 Corinthians 13: 1- 5



When we Consume

- ✓ We dehumanize
 - ✓ Push people “Adjust to me, or I’m out of here.”
We believe God loves us because we are good.
 - ✓ We are anxious...
Fear of exposure/measuring up.
 - ✓ We are trapped in comparison and competition.
 - ✓ We commodify people for their bodies instead of enjoying them for who they are.
 - ✓ Performance is central - Relationships are superficial, lack real depth.
 - ✓ Consumer asks – what am I going to gain?
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Plato: Eros – a longing for what I lack – desire.

“I behold some quality in you that I need and desire to be united to it.”

Augustine: Combined love as desire (eros) and love as a gift (agape) –

“I love you because I want to do you good (agape)” –

depends on the quality of benevolence in the lover. He saw two basic kinds of love. A love centered on God and a love centered on anything else.

Bernard and Aquinas: God loves us by enabling us to love him –

love was its own reward (Bernard).

Aquinas: Love as passion or desire and then combined it with a conception of love as a gift or desire for another's good. Love attracts one person to another and unites lover and beloved but that uniting impulse carries with it a giving impulse.

Luther to Barth: Eros is platonic – agape is Christian – Love as a selfless gift – sacrificial, God's way to man, Gods grace, freedom in giving, agape loves – and creates value in its object” Anders Nygren

God loves us no matter what. God is an infinitely rich and most generous giver who receives nothing in return. God love for loves sake. God's love is a pure gift. Unconditional acceptance.



Love among theologians



Love and affection

Involves affirming and affection – like eros.
Filled with pleasure – in you am well pleased.

Love is giving

Father gives all he has to the son. The father doesn't just give of himself but gives himself to the son. To the point of identifying himself with Jesus. Who ever has seen Jesus has seen the father.

Love and exalting:

The father exalted the son, put all things in subjection under his feet, established the son as the head of all creation – gave him a more excellent name. The fathers love for the son is showed in his desire to see his son glorified above all creation. Love promotes the other.

Love and obedience (we don't expect this one)

The father loves the son because he perfectly obeys – for this reason the father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again (John 10:17). He came to do the will of the father. He abides in the after love by obeying the father. For Jesus – Love leads to obedience. Obedience is a condition of love.



The father and son



Love is affectionate

Love is giving

Love is exalting

Love is obedient...

This is love when it is love in GOD'S WAY, not seeking its OWN WAY.



The father and son



“When the Bible speaks of love, it measures it primarily not by how much you want to receive but by how much you are willing to give of yourself to someone. How much are you willing to lose for the sake of this person? How much of your freedom are you willing to forsake? How much of your precious time, emotion and resources are you willing to invest in this person?”

True love is a sacrificial commitment to the good of someone else, and therefore true love is more fundamentally an action rather than a feeling or an emotion.




Tim Keller, Meaning of Marriage





WHY God's way

Covenant – what am I going to give?


- ✓ Commitment is central.
 - ✓ Love is affectionately affirming what God is doing in others (says I affirm you, you are worthy & precious & beautiful to me because you are from God.)
 - ✓ Compassion is love's reaction to seeing one of God's creatures, image bearers, hurting, oppressed, caught in sin, under duress.
 - ✓ Love is giving oneself to see God exalted in the other
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God's way

Covenant: Trusted; Secure; Forgiven; Duty; Passion.

Genesis 2:24-25

- In a consumer relationship - my needs are higher than the relationship.
 - In a covenant relationship - my needs are not as important to me as the good of the relationship.
 - So a consumer marriage will remain focused on ***what we are expecting to gain*** while a covenant marriage ***will remain focused on what we are willing to give.***
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Next steps

- 1: How are you loving others?
- 2: Where do you need to commit as a sign of your love?
- 3: Commit to a relationship this week in line with what God is inviting you to.