

Jeff Coleman, 17 July 2022



# Agape: the Most Excellent Way

## 1 Corinthians 13



Segment	Occasion	Chapter	Theme
<b>Divisions in the Church</b> Concern	Answer to Chloe's Report	1	The Message of the Cross
		2	Wisdom for the Mature
		3	Building on the Foundation of Messiah
		4	The Scum of the World
<b>Disorder in the Church</b> Condemnation	Answer to Report of Sexual Immorality	5	Church Discipline
		6	Lawsuits and Sexual Sin
<b>Difficulties in the Church</b> Counsel	Answer to Letter of Questions	7	Marriage, Singleness, and Divorce
		8	Food Sacrificed to Idols
		9	All Things to All People
		10	All to the Glory of God
		11	Head Coverings / Lord's Supper
		12	One Body, Many Members
		13	Agape: the Most Excellent Way
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		15	
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# 1 Corinthians 12

## **One Body, Many Gifts**

### **Review of 1 Corinthians 12**

- The Test of True Spirituality (vv. 1-3)
- Various Manifestations for the Common Good (vv. 4-11)
- One Body (vv. 12-13)
- Many Members (vv. 14-19)
- No Division in This Body (vv. 21-26)
- Pursue the Greater Gifts (vv. 27-31)

# **1 Corinthians 13**

## **Agape: the Most Excellent Way**

### **Preview of 1 Corinthians 13**

- The Excellence of Agape (v. 12:31)
- The Necessity of Agape (vv. 1-3)
- The Practice of Agape (vv. 4-7)
- The Permanence of Agape (vv. 8-12)
- The Preeminence of Agape (v. 13)

## **The Excellence of Agape**

### **1 Corinthians 12:31**

- 31 And I am showing you a still more excellent way.

## A Clear Pattern

	Unity	Diversity	Maturity
1 Corinthians	12:1-13	12:14-31	13:1-13
Romans	12:1-5	12:6-8	12:9-21
Ephesians	4:1-6	4:7-12	4:13-16

## Types of Love

	Personal Love	Impersonal Love
<b>Emphasis</b>	Attractiveness of the beloved	Character of the lover
<b>Old Testament Hebrew</b>	אהב Ahav	אהבה Chesed
<b>New Testament Greek</b>	έρως Eros  φίλος Philos	ἀγάπη Agape

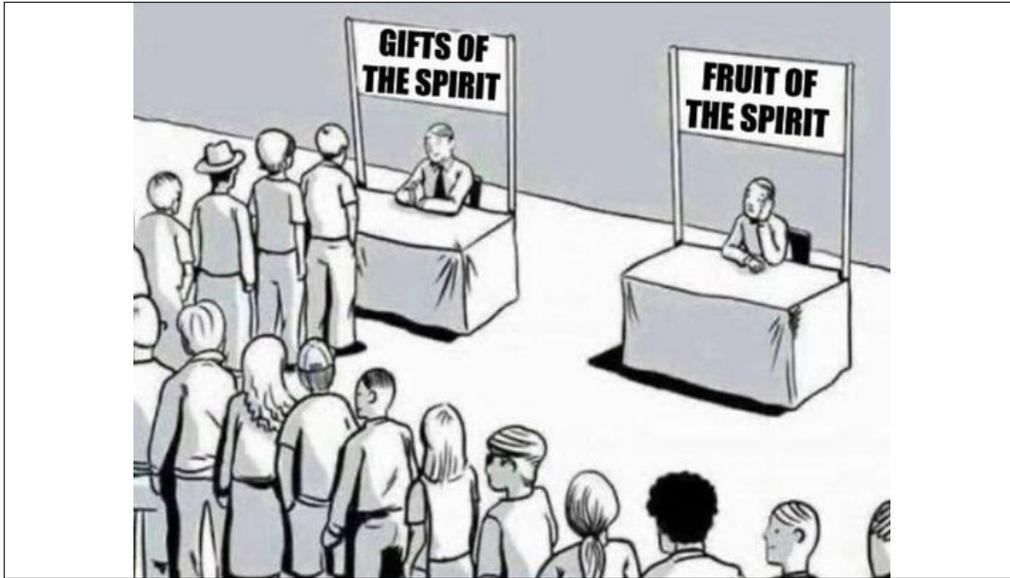
## Thang and Anh



## The Necessity of Agape

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- 1 If (ἐάν) [hypothetically] I speak in the languages (γλώσσαις) of men and of angels, but have not love (ἀγάπη), I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophecy and know 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 accomplish nothing.



## The Practice of Agape

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

- 4 Love (ἀγάπη) 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. It is not irritable or keep a record of wrong. 6 It does not rejoice at unrighteousness, but co-rejoices with the truth. 7 It endures all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

AGAPE	NOT AGAPE
Is Patient	Does Not Envy or Boast
Is Kind	Is Not Arrogant
Rejoices with the Truth	Is Not Rude
Passes over All Things in Silence	Does Not Insist on Its Own Way
Believes All Things	Is Not Irritable
Hopes All Things	Keeps No Record of Wrongs
Endures All Things	Does Not Rejoice at Unrighteousness



## How to Win Friends and Influence People

Dale Carnegie

- PRINCIPLE 1 Begin with praise and honest appreciation.
- PRINCIPLE 2 Call attention to people's mistakes indirectly.
- PRINCIPLE 3 Talk about your own mistakes before criticizing the other person.
- PRINCIPLE 4 Ask questions instead of giving direct orders.
- PRINCIPLE 5 Let the other person save face.
- PRINCIPLE 6 Praise the slightest improvement and praise every improvement.
- PRINCIPLE 7 Give the other person a fine reputation to live up to.
- PRINCIPLE 8 Use encouragement. Make the fault seem easy to correct.
- PRINCIPLE 9 Make the other person happy about doing the thing you suggest.

## The Permanence of Agape

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

- 8 Love never falls. As for prophecies, they will pass away (καταργέω, fut. pass.). As for [speaking foreign] languages, they will cease (παύω, fut. mid.). As for knowledge, it will pass away (καταργέω, fut. pass.). 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect (τὸ τέλειον) comes, the partial will pass away (καταργέω, fut. pass.). 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know (γινώσκω, pres.) in part. Then I shall know fully (ἐπιγινώσκω, fut.), even as I was fully known (ἐπιγινώσκω, aor.).

Tongues —————

Prophecy —————■

Knowledge —————■

Agape —————→ ∞

**Immaturity**

**Maturity**

Gnosis

Epignosis

Spiritual Gifts

Agape

Temporary

Permanent

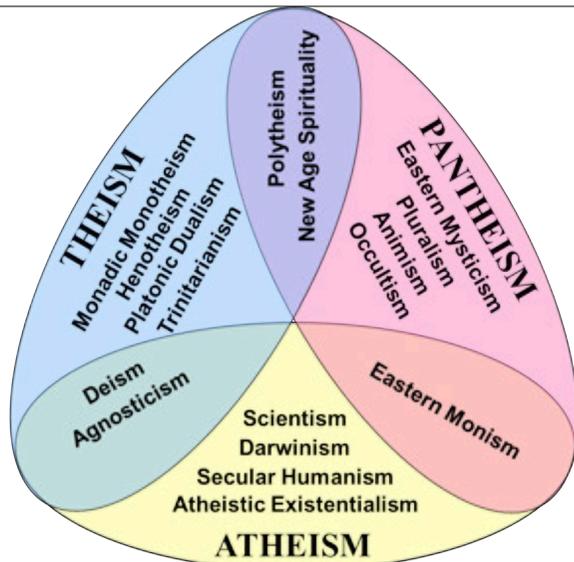
# The Preeminence of Agape

1 Corinthians 13:13

- **1 Co 13:13** 13 So now persists (μένω, pres.) faith, hope, and love, these three. But the greatest of these is love (ἀγάπη).

# Cardinal Virtues      Theological Virtues

Prudence	Faith
Justice	Hope
Courage	Agape
Temperance	



	SECTARISM	MARXISM	POSTMODERNISM	NEW SPIRITUALITY	ISLAM	CHRISTIANITY
<b>THEOLOGY</b>	Atheism	Atheism	Theological Suspicion	Pantheism	Monotheism	Trinitarian Monotheism
<b>PHILOSOPHY</b>	Materialism & Naturalism	Dialectical Materialism	Anti-Realism	Spiritual Monism	Dualism	Dualism
<b>ETHICS</b>	Moral Relativism or Utilitarianism	Proletariat Morality	Cultural Relativism	Karma	Divine Command Theory	Agape
<b>BIOLOGY</b>	Neo-Darwinism	Punctuated Equilibrium	Anti-Evolutionism	Spiritual Evolution	Special Creation	Special Creation
<b>PSYCHOLOGY</b>	Mind/Body Monism (Self-Autonomy)	Mind/Body Monism (Critical Consciousness)	Decentered Self	Mind/Body Monism (Mind-Body)	Mind/Body Dualism (Mind-Body)	Mind/Body Dualism (Mind-Body)
<b>SOCIOLOGY</b>	Personal Autonomy	Proletariat Society	Social Constructionism	Collective Consciousness	Ummah	Sphere Sovereignty
<b>LAW</b>	Legal Positivism	Proletariat Law	Critical Legal Studies	Self-Law	Shariah Law	Natural Law
<b>POLITICS</b>	Progressivism	Statism	Political Revisionism or Liberalism	Autarchy	Islamic Theocracy	Subsidiarity
<b>ECONOMICS</b>	Economic Interventionism	Socialism	Economic Interventionism	Universal Enlightened Production	Shariah Economics	Biblical Stewardship
<b>HISTORY</b>	Social Progress	Historical Materialism	Historical Revisionism	Evolutionary Goodhood	Pan-Islam	Redemptive Narrative

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## Application

### 1 Corinthians 13

- Pursue agape (1 Co 14:1).
- Agape is not something that can be micromanaged; it is by nature decentralised.
- Agape is an affair of the will, a decision.
- Agape requires us to make ourselves vulnerable.
- Don't do for others what they are able and should be doing for themselves.
- Agape means we will sometimes have to say no to those close to us.
- Don't just give agape...receive agape. Don't forget to show yourself agape.
- Stir up one another to agape (He 10:24).

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