BIBLE STUDY SERIES
A COMPREHENSIVE LESSON ON LOVE

LOVE ACCORDING TO THE WORLD

Love, by dictionary definition, is described as:

❤️ A profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person
❤️ A feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend.
❤️ Sexual passion or desire.

What we see from the world's perspective is that love is an _________________.

LOVE ACCORDING TO THE WORD

IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTAIN THE TRUE MEANING OF LOVE WITH JUST ONE STATEMENT. THEREFORE, WE MUST EXAMINE SEVERAL DIFFERENT EXAMPLES OF HOW THIS WORD IS USED IN THE BIBLE.

🗣️ "AHEB"- pronounced "aw-habe"- means to have affection for. This affection is expressed between a man and a woman, between parents and children, and between close friends. But above all, it is used in the first Commandment that we love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind and soul.

🗣️ "PHILEO"- describes a brotherly love, a human to human affection which is based on emotions. It is often seen through the MUTUAL good will that people share with one another. It is important to note that both believers and unbelievers can experience "phileo", seeing as though it only requires a mutual connection through the flesh. This type of love requires not only appreciation, but also reciprocation for whatever was given initially.
Those of us, who know the Apostle Peter, know that he was often ruled by his emotions. There are times when it worked for him, and other times when it worked against him.

- His willingness to walk out on water. (Matthew 14:25-33)
- His declaration that Jesus was the Christ (Matthew 16:16)
- His erroneous desire to build three tabernacles. (Matthew 17:4)
- His knee-jerk decision to "defend" Jesus. (John 18:10)

"Agape"- This love is represented by God's love for us. It is a non-partial, sacrificial love, which is best exemplified by God's provision for us on the cross. (John 3:16)

- God is the source of Agape Love (1 John 4:8-9)
- Agape love is not mutual in that it did not require us to love Him. (1 John 4:10)
- Agape love does not require obedience in order to operate. (Romans 5:8)

From the world's perspective, love is an emotion. But from the Word's perspective, we see that love is a ________________________________.

**The Horizontal Response**

- The fact that God loves us vertically should cause us to love one another horizontally. (1 John 4:11)
- A believer should not "hate" ANY person. (1 John 4:20-21) The word for hate is "miseo" which means to detest or to persecute.
- It is possible to dislike what a person says or does. But hate is the most ungodly emotion and action that a person can impose upon another.
- Real love does not require reciprocation.
- Real love does not expect repayment, nor does it inflict revenge. (Matthew 5:38-42)
- Real love is able to wish the best for an enemy. (Matthew 5:43-48)
- Real love will be offended, but finds a way to forgive the offender, (1 Peter 4:8) the word for charity is "agape".