

# Doing Family God's Way

## God-like Love & God-honoring Covenants

### Is it love or is it love?

*Storge*: Family Love

*Eros*: Romantic Love

*Philia*: Brotherly Love

*Agape*: God-like Love

- I. A husband is commanded to love his wife. A wife is to learn to love her husband & children.

*Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh to them. Colossians 3:19*

*Older women are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children. Titus 2:4*

- II. Agape Love is made of the stuff that holds a family together.

*Colossians 3:12-15*

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Humility
- Meekness
- Patience
- Forbearance

*"God, let me be all he ever dreamed of loveliness and laughter. Veil his eyes a bit because there are so many little flaws, somehow, God please let him see only the bride I long to be, remembering ever after - I was all he ever dreamed of loveliness and laughter."*  
Ruth Bell Graham

- Forgiveness

### III. Agape love is more than a feeling.

*Let us not love in word and talk but in deed and truth. 1 John 3:18*

*1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13*

### IV. Agape Love is a God-honoring, covenant-keeping love.

*If a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth. Numbers 30:2*

*Malachi 3:14-16*

**Agape can lead your heart through the drought to the spring of *storge*, the river of *eros*, and the fountain of *philia*.**

“Do not follow your heart. Lead your heart.” Line from *Fireproof*

### V. Developing the capacity to love like Jesus.

#### 1. Agape love begins in the heart of one who receives God’s love.

*But God shows in love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

*We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19*

*1 John 4:7-12, 15-19*

#### 2. Agape love blossoms in the heart of one who loves Jesus most.

*1 John 4:17*

*Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Matthew 10:37 (Also see Luke 14:26)*

*But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first. Revelation 2:4-5*