

I'll Be There for You: The One Where We Love Because He Loved Us

1 John 3:16 (TPT)

“This is how we have discovered love’s reality: Jesus sacrificed his life for us. Because of this great love, we should be willing to lay down our lives for one another.”

Agape – A deliberate act of the will based upon the nature and character of God himself.

Eros – A desire and intention to possess, acquire, or control for the purpose of personal satisfaction.

1 John 4:7-8 (TPT)

Those who are loved by God, let his love continually pour from you to one another, because God is love (Agape). Everyone who loves is fathered by God and experiences an intimate knowledge of him. The one who doesn’t love has yet to know God, for God is love.

1. Letting God “Father” us, opens us up to truly love others.

1 John 4:9-11,19 (TPT)

The light of God’s love shined within us when he sent his matchless Son into the world so that we might live through him. This is love: He loved us long before we loved him. It was his love, not ours. He proved it by sending his Son to be the pleasing sacrificial offering to take away our sins. Delightfully loved ones, if he loved us with such tremendous love, then “loving one another” should be our way of life! ... ¹⁹ Our love for others is our grateful response to the love God first demonstrated to us.

2. We love sacrificially because that’s how Jesus loved us.

Matthew 22:37-39 (TPT)

Jesus answered him, “Love (Agape) the Lord your God with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being, and with every thought that is within you.’ This is the great and supreme commandment. And the second is like it in importance: ‘You must love (Agape) your friend in the same way you love (Agape) yourself.’”

3. Righteously loving (agape) ourselves is the key to loving others.