

## God is Love

**Love - 0157 'ahab** {aw-hab'} or 'ahab {aw-habe'} a primitive root; TWOT - 29; v AV - love 169, lover(s) 19, friend(s) 12, beloved 5, liketh 1, lovely 1, loving 1; 208 1) to love, human love for another, includes family, and sexual 1a2) human appetite for objects such as food, drink, sleep, wisdom 1a3) human love for or to God 1a4) act of being a friend 1a4a) lover (participle) 1a4b) friend (participle) 1a5) God's love toward man 1a5a) to individual men 1a5b) to people Israel 1a5c) to righteousness 1b) (Niphal) 1b1) lovely (participle) 1b2) loveable (participle) 1c) (Piel) 1c1) friends 1c2) lovers (fig. of adulterers) 2) to like.

**Love - 02836 chashaq** {khaw-shak'} a primitive root; TWOT - 773; v AV - desire 3, set his love 2, filleted 3, log 1, delight 1, in love 1; 11 1) (Qal) to love, be attached to, long for

**Love - 0160 'ahabah** {a-hab-aw} f of 0158; TWOT - 29c; n f AV - love 40; 40 1) love 1a) human love for human object 1a1) of man toward man 1a2) of man toward himself 1a3) between man and woman 1a4) sexual desire 2) God's love to His people.

**Love - 25 agapao** {ag-ap-ah'-o} perhaps from agan (much) [or cf 5368]; TDNT - 1:21,5; v AV - love 135, beloved 7; 142 1) of persons 1a) to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly 2) of things 2a) to be well pleased, to be contented at or with a thing. Godly love

**Love - 26 agape** {ag-ah'-pay} from 25; TDNT - 1:21,5; n f AV - love 86, charity 27, dear 1, charitably+2596 1, feast of charity 1; 116 1) brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence 2) love feasts

**Love - 5368 phileo** {fil-eh'-o} from 5384; TDNT - 9:114,1262; v AV - love 22, kiss 3; 25 1) to love 1a) to approve of 1b) to like 1c) sanction 1d) to treat affectionately or kindly, to welcome, befriend 2) to show signs of love 2a) to kiss 3) to be fond of doing 3a) be wont, use to do. Brotherly love.

**Love - 5360 philadelphia** {fil-ad-el-fee'-ah} from 5361; TDNT - 1:144,22; n f AV - brotherly love 3, brotherly kindness 2, love of the brethren 1; 6 1) love of brothers or sisters, brotherly love 2) in the NT the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren.

**Love - 07355 racham** {raw-kham'} a primitive root; TWOT - 2146; v AV - ...mercy 32, ...compassion 8, pity 3, love 1, merciful 1, Ruhamah 1, surely 1; 47 1) to love, love deeply, have mercy, be compassionate, have tender affection, have compassion.

**Love - 07356 racham** {rakh'-am} from 07355; TWOT - 2146a AV - mercy 30, compassion 4, womb 4, bowels 2, pity 2, damsel 1, tender love 1; 44 n m 1) womb n m abs pl intens 2) compassion

**Love – storge** a Greek word for love but not used in the NT, love between siblings or family love.

**Love – eros** – another Greek not used in the NT for physical love between a husband and wife, erotic love. It is to a love of the worthy and it is a love that desires to possess.

**God is love: 1 John 4:8, 16.** God has many attributes but the essence of all His attributes is love. He does nothing outside of all his attributes and love is the foundation of those attributes. The love we are speaking about is the desire to provide what is best for the other being no matter how undeserving that person might be. This love wishes nothing in return, in order for it to be exhibited. Love is the highest characteristic of God, the one attribute in which all the others harmoniously blend.

As we study love as an attribute of God and realize it is more than just other attribute because it is the essence of God, and actually is the foundation of how all the other attributes are distributed. I am not saying love is more powerful than the other attributes, nor am I saying it is more important I am just saying like yeast goes through out the bread; love goes through out the other attributes and all that God does including His wrath is exhibited ultimately with love.

The greatest commandments are: **Matt. 22: 37-40 37** Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt **love (25)** the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt **love (25)** thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**In the King James Version of the bible the word love is used 281 times here are some of the uses. As usual we are comparing God's love with mans and seeing if God expects man to have that same love, we will see in these scriptures He does.**

**Gen. 27: 4** And make me savoury meat, such as I **love (157)**, and bring [it] to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die

**Gen. 29: 20** And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him [but] a few days, for the **love (160)** he had to her.

**Gen. 29:32** And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will **love (157)** me

**Ex. 20: 5, 6** 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that **love (157)** me, and keep my commandments.

**Ex. 21: 5** And if the servant shall plainly say, I **love (157)** my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free:

**Lev. 19: 18** Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt **love (157)** thy neighbour as thyself: I [am] the LORD.

**Lev. 19: 34** [But] the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt **love (157)** him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I [am] the LORD your God.

**Deut. 5: 10** And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that **love (157)** me and keep my commandments.

Something I would like you to notice is how when God speaks of someone loving Him He defines that love as being obedient to Him.

**Deut. 6: 4-9** 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God [is] one LORD: 5 And thou shalt **love (157)** the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. {teach: Heb. whet, or, sharpen} 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

**Deut. 7: 7-9** 7The LORD did not set his **love (2836)** upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye [were] the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he [is] God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that **love (157)** him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.

We see a difference in the two uses of love in these verses. 2836 means to attach to and 157 has a broader meaning. It could mean love of man to man or man to God. See here again the scripture says them who love Him and **keep His commandments.**

**Deut. 7: 13** And he will **love (157)** thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee

**Deut. 10: 12, 13** 12 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to **love (157)** him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, 13 To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

**Deut. 10: 19** **Love (157)** ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

**Deut. 11: 1** Therefore thou shalt **love (157)** the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always.

**Deut. 11: 13** And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to **love (157)** the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

**Deut.11: 22** For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to **love (157)** the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;

Are you noticing the repetition of how true love of God includes obedience to God and how God wishes our whole heart to be involved, not just halfhearted love or mindless service.

**Deut. 13: 3** Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye **love (157)** the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

**Deut. 19: 9** If thou shalt keep all these commandments to do them, which I command thee this day, to **love (157)** the LORD thy God, and to walk ever in his ways; then shalt thou add three cities more for thee, beside these three:

**Deut. 30: 6-10** 6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to **love (157)** the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. 7 And the LORD thy God will put all these

curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee. 8 And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments, which I command thee this day. 9 And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers: 10 If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, [and] if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

**Deut. 30: 16-20** 16 In that I command thee this day to **love (157)** the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. 17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; 18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, [and that] ye shall not prolong [your] days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, [that] I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: 20 That thou mayest **love (157)** the LORD thy God, [and] that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he [is] thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

**Josh. 22: 5** But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to **love (157)** the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul

**2 Sam. 1:26** I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love (160) to me was wonderful, passing the **love (160)** of women.

The word for love here is love like for brothers, love of a woman, love of God toward his people. It is not in any way describing an ungodly relationship between David and Jonathan.

**2 Sam. 13: 4** And he said unto him, Why [art] thou, [being] the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I **love (157)** Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.

If this word for love was in the Greek it would probably be Eros. He did not love her as a sister, or half sister, (storge) but he had erotic love (perhaps we would say lust) toward her like a man would have toward his wife, except he wanted to possess her until he had her and then he did not want anything to do with her after he got his pleasure.

**2 Sam. 13: 15** Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her [was] greater than the love (157) wherewith he had loved her.

Amnon never loved Tamar at all but he lusted after her like many people lust after another person or thing today. Lets take a chance here to realize when a man truly loves a woman (agape) it is like when God loves us. He never loses His love toward us even unto His final judgment against unbelievers. The word for erotic love, eros does not describe the love one must truly have for a mate in order to remain married for life. This is why it is so important for people to receive counseling before getting married to discuss future events that are sure to come into the relationship some time in the future. True love is not a feeling, it is not easy, but it takes work. Each partner must try to adjust their life to the other's needs and like God's love for us; we must always seek the best for our mate and always put them first.

**2 Chr. 19: 2** And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and **love (157)** them that hate the LORD? therefore [is] wrath upon thee from before the LORD. I thought Jesus told us to love our enemies? If so why is Jehoshaphat reprimanded here?

**Dan. 1: 9** Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender **love (7356)** with the prince of the eunuchs.

Never allow anyone to convince you this type of love between two men is speaking of unnatural or homosexual love. Here just like David and Jonathan's love for each other there is nothing perverted about it.

**Hose 9: 15** All their wickedness [is] in Gilgal: for there I hated (8130) them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will **love (160)** them no more: all their princes [are] revolvers.

**Amos 5: 15** Hate (8183) the evil, and **love (160)** the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

**Mica. 6:8** He hath shewed thee, O man, what [is] good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to **love (160)** mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

**Zeph. 3: 17** The LORD thy God in the midst of thee [is] mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his **love (160)**, he will joy over thee with singing.

**Matt. 5: 43** Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt **love (25)** thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, **Love (25)** your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye **love (25)** them which **love (25)** you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same.

**Matt. 19: 19** Honour thy father and [thy] mother: and, Thou shalt **love (25)** thy neighbour as thyself.

**Matt. 22: 37** Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt **love (25)** the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt **love (25)** thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Matt. 24: 11** And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the **love (25)** of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

**John 14: 14-17** 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do [it]. 15 If ye **love (25)** me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Here is how God describes what love is and what it is not.

**1 Cor.13: 1** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not **charity (26 agape)** (brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence), I am become [as] sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have [the gift of] prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed [the poor], and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 4 Charity suffereth long, [and] is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, {vaunteth...: or, is not rash} 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; {in the truth: or, with the truth} 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: but whether [there be] prophecies, they shall **fail (cease, to render idle)**; whether [there be] tongues, they shall cease; whether [there be] knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face-to-face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these [is] charity.

These scriptures say love will not be done away with, although prophecy, tongues, knowledge, will be replaced (done away with) when we are like God, love will never end it will just be perfected in Christ.