

Modern Family Vintage Values: Family Love (I John 4:7-16)

Introduction.

A) The term “love” brings up all sorts of ideas in our Western culture. The media tend to picture love with desire and feelings and most often promote an equation of love with physical intimacy -- especially when love is the result of chemistry that bursts into passionate magic. Most of today’s thriving online matchmaking services market their brand of “happily ever after” using personality tests or compatibility pairing—and all of them brag about their success rates.

B) When asked, “What is the greatest commandment,” Jesus responded with “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” ([Matthew 22:37](#)) AND “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” ([Matthew 22:39](#)).

C) Arguably the most quoted promise in the Bible focuses on love, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”* ([John 3:16](#)).

D) The Bible is a love letter from God to His people.

E) Love defined. The Greeks had four words translated love into the English.

Eros – “erotic” or sensual love (lust).

Phileo – brotherly love

Storge – community or family love

Agape – divine or sacrificial love

Agape is a voluntary, unilateral, sacrificial choice that seeks the best interest of another regardless of their response or worthiness expecting, nothing in return.

E) Contextualize **Family Love** in the series **Modern Family Vintage Values**.

F) **Contextualize I John 4:7-16** – John wrote I John with several proof of a relationship with Christ in mind. In I John, the author mentions AGAPE LOVE some 50 times.

I. God's Love Toward Us.

Principle: *You cannot love others properly without first experiencing the extravagant love of God toward you.*

Note: God lavished his love on us (I John 3:1).

A) Created for love (v. 7-8).

(God created us with an overwhelming need for love.)

B) God is love (v. 9)

(God is love and is the only source of true satisfaction in people. Agape love is a verb.)

C) God's persistent love (v. 10)

(Agape love is demonstrated irregardless of the response of the recipient.)

II. Our Love Toward Others.

Principle: *God's love is spread abroad in our hearts enabling us to love others with agape love.*

Note: *The love of God is poured into our hearts at salvation (Romans 5:5)*

A) The Challenge (v.11)

(We are challenged to love others, especially our spouse, in the same way (v. 11)

(God's love changes our hearts so that we become increasingly more loving and selfless.)

B) The Purpose (v.12)

(Our demonstration of love toward others is the best way to demonstrate God to others. Love is the personification of God to others.)

C) The Power (v. 13-17).

(The Holy Spirit is the energy that allows us to love sacrificially.)

III. The Portrait of Love In Marriage (I Corinthians 13)

Principle: *With Christ in you, you have the capacity to love your spouse properly.*

A) Substitutes for Love

Talking - I speak like an angel. Talk about it in love and not anger!! (13:1)

Religion – gift of prophecy and all faith (13:2)

Sacrifice – martyr (13:3)

B) Sacrificial Love (The Message)

- 1) Love never gives up (13:4)
- 2) Love cares more for others than for self (13:4)
- 3) Love doesn't want what it doesn't have (13:4)
- 4) Love doesn't strut (13:4)
- 5) Love doesn't have a swelled head (13:4)
- 6) Love doesn't force itself on others (13:5)
- 7) Love isn't always "me first," (13:5)
- 8) Love doesn't fly off the handle (13:5)
- 9) Love doesn't keep score of the sins of others (13:5)
- 10) Love doesn't revel when others grovel (13:6)
- 11) Love takes pleasure in the flowering of truth (13:6)
- 12) Love puts up with anything (13:7)
- 13) Love trusts God always (13:7)
- 14) Love always looks for the best (13:7)
- 15) Love never looks back (13:7)
- 16) Love keeps going to the end (13:8a)

Notes:

Some of you did not grow up in a home in which your dad did not love your mom in a sacrificial way.

Men one of the best thing you can do for your kids is for them to see you love their mom in a sacrificial way.

A good marriage is two givers trying to out give one another

Conclusion

- A) Genuine love takes the initiative (He first loved us)
- B) Genuine love overlooks the little stuff (not everything is a hill to die on).
- C) Genuine love strives for reconciliation (we are not going to give up on each other)
- D) Genuine love readily confesses sin and readily gives forgiveness
- E) Genuine love willingly endures hardships