

SOP: Living Loved

For the Lord to access His creation—He gains access through the giving and receiving of love. This is the initiation—the entry point—the divine strategy of recovery for our hearts—ransoming us to sonship.

Matthew 22:36-40

- Response to command is sourced in us
- Aimed outward

John 13:34-35

- This love is sourced in Him and must first be received by us
- We give away what we have been given/first received
- We are the delivery system of gift that is first initiated by God toward us.
- Christianity is not just about restraining old behavior—but living from an exchanged life—learning to live loved—and give love.

Three words in Greek for love:

Eros: (though this word is not found in NT)=physical or sexual love (I Corinthians 7:5)

Phileo: warm affection or friendship (two different words are used in discourse between Jesus and Peter in John 21:15-17)

Agape: **sacrificial, unconditional** love. Love that is **sourced from God**, and is an accurate **reflection of His heart**. It is a **benevolent** love—not necessarily doing what person loved desires—but what the one who loves deems as needed by the one loved. It is **unselfish**. It is **more an action and reaction than a feeling**.

I John 4:16-19

Come to know: Ginosko

Relational—experiential—intimate

Progressive—don't get it all at once

Effectual—changes the one who 'knows' Him

Have believed: pisteuo

To have faith, believe, put your confidence in

- Abiding produces the fruit of love
- Perfected can also be translated: made complete, or mature
- Main antidote for fear based living. Fear will keep us in slavery for our entire lives, and we will tend to live as orphans
- (Example: being brought into Max Whites home to live)

Strategy of evil one:

- Keep us from believing the love God has for us
- Assigning reasons why we are disqualified from receiving the Father's love
- Wounding our hearts with relationships that have demonstrated betrayal, rejection or abandonment—so that we are trapped in a stronghold of lies that keep us separated from the love of God. Our wounded souls is where deception finds a harbor.
- The evil one is continually looking for relationships that have a breach—it is his design to destroy connectors and undermine our ability to trust.
- Fear—shame—and guilt—strategies of the evil one to keep us from believing that we are loved.
- If we can't believe and receive the love of God, we are unable to produce the fruit of the Spirit in this regard.

John 3:16-17

I John 4:7-12