



**Welcome to Unity's Interactive
Worship Service**
Today's Topic:
Love: A Divine Attribute
Power Point notes available at:
www.unityofbakersfield.org

Love: A Divine Attribute



Charles Fillmore, co-founder of Unity, had this to say about love:
 "Love is the pure essence of Being and the most beautiful attributes of God. It is the power that joins and binds in divine harmony the universe and everything in it; the great harmonizing principle know to man. As Paul said, 'Love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.' (Rom. 13:10)."

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An anthology comedy series (1969-1974) featuring a line up of different celebrity guest stars appearing in anywhere from one, two, three, and four short stories or vignettes within an hour about versions of love and romance, based on an Eros kind of love.
 The Greeks had their versions.

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EROS
 Eros is a passionate and intense love that arouses romantic feelings; it is the kind that often triggers "high" feelings in a new relationship and makes you say, "I love him/her". It is simply an emotional and sexual love. Although this romantic love is important in the beginning of a new relationship, it may not last unless it moves a notch higher because it focuses more on self instead of the other person. If the person "in love" does not feel good about their relationship anymore, they will stop loving their partner.

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STORGE
 It is a kind of family and friendship love. This is the love that parents naturally feel for their children; the love that member of the family have for each other; or the love that friends feel for each other. In some cases, this friendship love may turn into a romantic relationship, and the couple in such a relationship becomes best friends. Storge love accepts flaws or faults and ultimately drives you to forgive. It's committed, sacrificial and makes you feel secure, comfortable and safe.

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PHILEO
 The phileo love refers to an affectionate, warm and tender platonic love. It makes you desire friendship with someone. It's the kind of love which livens up the Agape love. Although you may have an agape love for your enemies, you may not have a phileo love for the same people. The translation of the word phileo is love in the noun – form: it is how you feel about someone. It is a committed and chosen love.

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AGAPE

This is an unconditional love that sees beyond the outer surface and accepts the recipient for whom he/she is, regardless of their flaws, shortcomings or faults. It's the type of love that everyone strives to have for their fellow human beings. Although you may not like someone, you decide to love them just as a human being. This kind of love is all about sacrifice as well as giving and expecting nothing in return. Like phileo love, it is a committed and chosen love.

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When we speak of love as a divine attribute we are speaking about unconditional love. So what does loving someone unconditionally really mean? Is it possible for humankind exhibit agape love toward others?

We when study the four types of love that the Greeks used to divine human behavior toward one another, it seems agape love is the closest thing to unconditional love we could express by loving others as ourselves.

"The greatest commandment of all is to "Love God, love neighbor, love self." -Jesus

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The divine attribute, the power of God's love for us, is unconditional. Jesus understood this and sought to bring it's power and light to shine on all who would accept it.

To the woman: "Who is here to condemn you?"
"No one," she said. "Neither do I." (John 8:10)

To the disciples: "Who sinned, him or his father?"
"Neither, for the glory of God is here." (John 9:2)

To all: "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust." (Matt 5:45)

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Today has been set aside to honor the people who were are moms. And for many people it's not just our birth mothers, but anyone who showed love, caring, support, and nurturing.

If we are to believe that we are made in the image and likeness of God, both male and female, masculine and feminine, then God is both. So where would we find the divine feminine aspect of God and its activity in our lives and affairs as unconditional love?

In this statement: "I will send you the comforter, which is the Holy Spirit." (John 14:26)

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In Unity we understand that the Holy Spirit is God's love in action as the feminine attribute that expresses itself as love, creativity, beauty, order, harmony, peace, understanding, forgiveness, healing and well-being that nourishes and replenishes the soul. It is the breath of God that gives life to all creation.

The Holy Spirit is God's agent of love, always active in the pursuit of bringing unconditional love to bear in all situations and circumstances as a lasting, observant, viable, and empowering presence.

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However, it is up to each individual to choose how the activity of Spirit is going to be expressed in and through them as unconditional love. So here are 10 insights for us to consider as we strive to express love: a divine attribute in our life and affairs.

1. Unconditional love is not loving one minute and disliking the next minute.
2. Unconditional love is a state of mind that looks beyond the faults of another as if they need to be fixed.
3. To love without conditions one need only to be aware that good and bad are just temporary judgements.

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4. Romantic love can seem like unconditional love, until the feelings and actions of the one or both partners become unworkable. As long as there are conditions, it's not unconditional.

5. Unconditional love is more like an activity of choosing than a feeling of wanting. Feelings get us from one place to another, of getting what we want from someone or something, they are conditional.

6. As an activity of choice, unconditional love is about giving love in the form of what is for the highest and best of the person to whom that love is given.

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7. If you find yourself acting in such a way that requires others to feel a certain way toward you, or you toward them, this is conditional love. And when the feelings are not given or returned, problems arise. Unconditional love requires no action other than to love for the sake of loving, free and without constraints.

8. All love begins at home. If we are to express unconditional love, it must begin with ourselves. Making peace with any shortcomings or flaws, imperfections or absolutes we have piled upon ourselves.

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9. God's love is absolute and does not judge. If we judge, we must judge a righteous judgment. Therefore, if we don't see ourselves worthy of being loved unconditionally by God, we will not be able to see ourselves or others worthy of it either.

10. Unconditional love is about making a choice. Ask yourself, "What is the most loving thing I can do for the highest and best for this person, right now?" Keep in mind that every situation or circumstance may require a different decision. Ask Spirit and Spirit will show.

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