



Supernatural – The Way of Love Pastor Jude Fouquier 11.12.2023

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[1 Corinthians 12:31-14:1 ESV]

But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I

spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

[1 John 4:8 ESV]

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

[1 Corinthians 12:8-12]

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Agape is an all-in, unrelenting love, it is the highest Love

1. Agape is for everyone

[John 3:16 ESV]

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

[Romans 5:8 ESV]

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Agape is a person

[1 John 4:9-10 ESV]

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

3. Agape is the new law

[John 15:12 ESV]

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends”

[Mark 12:30-31 ESV]

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

4. Agape last forever

[Romans 8:38-39 ESV]

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. You must experience Love firsthand.

2. Love must be lived out.

[1 John 4:11-12. 19 ESV]

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.... We love because he first loved us.”

[Matthew 5:44 ESV]

“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

[Acts 9:10-19 ESV]

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests

to bind all who call on your name.” But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened.”

Key Points:

1. You must experience Love firsthand
2. Love must be lived out

Application for the Week:

This week, pray and ask God to reveal His agape love to you in real and tangible way. As you experience His agape love, live it out through your words and actions.

Discussion Questions

1. Love songs are a major theme in pop music. What is your favorite love song of all time?
2. How would you describe love if you were basing it purely on what you observe in the world around you today?
3. Why is it important that we have a Biblical understanding of what love is?
4. Why do you think 1 Corinthians 13 is commonly known as the “love chapter?”
5. In what ways, have we experienced that *Agape love is a person*? How is Jesus the personification of love?
6. Why does Paul spend so much time talking about the gifts in this chapter? How are these so connected to love and the expression of it?
7. What is the more excellent way that God points out, and how do we discover it by “earnestly desiring the greater gifts?”
8. In your circle, who models agape love? What motivates them to live this way?