



**Advent Part 3 – Love**  
**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
**12.11.2022**

**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.

**Agape' = The highest love, God's love, pure, sacrificial love that intentionally desires another's highest good.**

**[1 John 4:16-18, NLT]**

<sup>16</sup> We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. <sup>17</sup> And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. <sup>18</sup> So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear.

**[Romans 12:10, NLT]**

Love (phila-delphia) each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

**Key Point:**

**1. This Love is a sacrificial love**

**[John 15:13, NLT]**

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

**[John 10:18, NLT]**

“No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily...”

**Key Point:**

**2. This Love is an unconditional love**

**[Jeremiah 31:3, NIV]**

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; have drawn you with unfailing kindness...”

<b>Olam’ = perpetual, over a long duration, without end</b>
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**[Romans 5:6-8, NLT]**

<sup>6</sup> When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. <sup>7</sup> Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. <sup>8</sup> But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

**Key Point:**

**3. This Love is preemptive love**

## [Ephesians 3:19, AMP]

May you know (experience) the love (agape') of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

**Know / Ginokó = experiential knowledge that comes through intimacy.  
To know and be known**

### Key Points:

1. This Love is a sacrificial love
2. This Love is an unconditional love
3. This Love is preemptive love

### Applications for the Week:

1. Think of all the ways God has shown His perfect love to you.
2. Look for opportunities to show undeserving love to others this week.
3. Remembering and being grateful is a powerful practice. Take time to express your love to God throughout the day.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What's your favorite love song? Sing it out loud if you dare.
2. Pastor Dave said, "Everyone is looking for love." In what ways have you seen this in those around you?
3. What does unconditional love look like in action? What are some experiences you have had with someone who showed unconditional love?
4. What are the differences between the four loves: phileo (brotherly love), eros (physical), storge (family), and agape (Fatherly love of God)?
5. Share a time that you experienced one of the **Key Points** mentioned in the message.
6. What do you think about God's preemptive and redemptive love for us through Jesus? Is it difficult for you to accept this without feeling like you need to earn it or prove your worth?
7. Pray for each other at the end of the Group, that you would experience the agape' love of God.