



Lewiston Church of Christ

April 7, 2019



Weekly Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:45 AM

Worship 10:45 AM

Sun. Day/Evening Groups

Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

DEACONS

Education – Rick Richardson

Finance – Tom Hill

Outreach – Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building – Ken Vogtman

Custodian – Ron & Cindy Roberson

Fellowship – Joe & Carrie Bieren

Grounds – Cody & Doyle Dawes

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Secretary – Renee Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

Great Words in God's Word

(Seventh in a series of bulletin articles on Bible words)

“Agape”

“And the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13).

When Paul cited “love” (*agape*, in Greek) as the greatest Christian virtue, he was not thinking like a Hollywood script writer. He was describing a Christian duty.

The Greek verb “*phileo*” expresses the Christian virtue of heartfelt affection some 25 times in the New Testament. A good English translation for *phileo* is “cherish.” *Phileo* is how Jesus felt about his friend Lazarus (John 11:36). It is also the word (used as a noun) for the kiss Judas planted on Jesus to betray Him (Matthew 26:48).

While *phileo* is found deep in the heart, *agape* is an achievement of the will (in response to God's *agape* for us). Holocaust survivor and author, Corrie ten Boom (1892 –1983) understood the role of the will in the life of a Christian. She said, “Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.”

Agape is deliberate and duty-driven. Regardless of our passing passions, *agape* remains the policy we live by—on purpose. Using the verb, *agapao*, as a command, Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34). John, Jesus' beloved disciple, wrote; “And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.” (1 John 3:23).

Phileo is felt. *Agapao* is obeyed. Both are Christian qualities, but the greatest is *agape*.

Outside of movies directly about Jesus, I cannot think of one instance wherein Hollywood portrayed love as a command. Who wants to see a movie about that?

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