

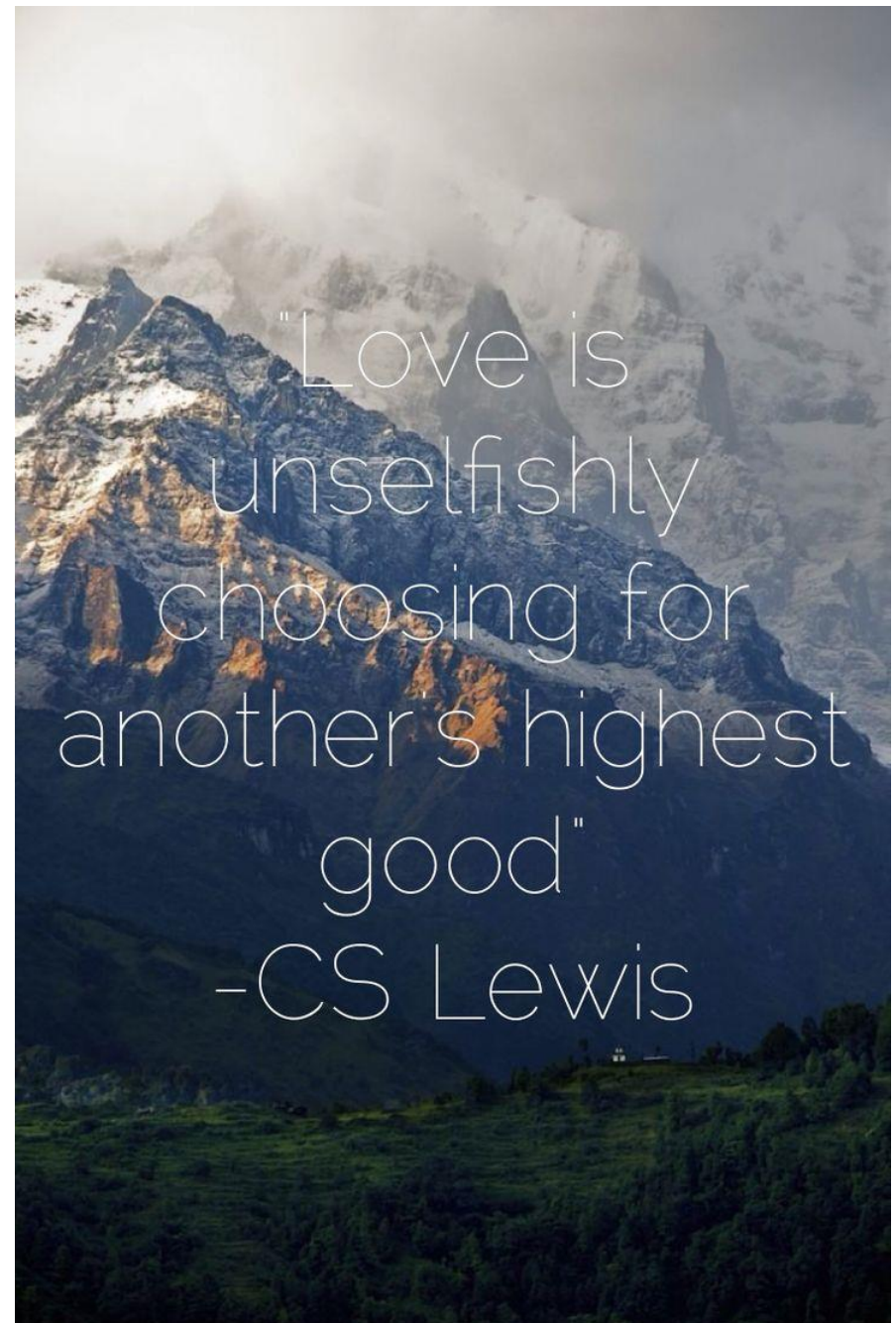
Ways We should Be Acting in Agápē According to Jesus:

43“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love Agápē your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 27 But I tell you who hear me: Love Agápē your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29If someone strikes [slaps] you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32If you love Agápē those who love Agápē you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ love Agápē those who love them. 33And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ do that! 34And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ lend to ‘sinners’ expecting to be repaid in full.

35But love Agápē your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (Matthew 5:43; Luke 6:27-36)

Prayer – O Lord, You are our one true God. Help us to love You with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength as You have commanded us to do. And because we have experienced the beauty of Your Agápē love for us, help us to show that same unselfish Agápē love to each person that You bring into our lives. These are the 2 greatest commandments, Your deepest desires for us. This is what true success in life means. Open our minds to why You have put each of us on this earth, to show Agápē love to others and to You. And begin opening our eyes and ears to the needs of the people You bring into our lives. Help us to respond in Agápē love and choose to act in ways that will bring about the highest good for the other person. We pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen. (So be it!)



Choosing to Love the Way Jesus Loves

“Love Agápē the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all of your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love Agápē your neighbor as you love Agápē yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

(Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus)

“A new commandment I give you: Love Agápē one another. In the same way that I have loved Agápē you, so you must love Agápē one another. By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you love Agápē one another.” (John 13:34-35, Jesus)

Two Different Approaches to Love

Eros Love

- Human love
- A love stimulated by the person or object loved
- Not only sexual desire, but a longing for something one doesn't have
- “I want you, I need you, I desire you, because I'm incomplete without you.”
- Depends on feelings that have been stimulated by the “attractiveness” or “benefits” of the person being loved

Agápē Love

- God's love (the way He loves us & the way He wants His children to love others)
- Not stimulated by the person being loved, or his/her goodness, beauty, benefits to you, etc.
- Begins with a choice to think loving thoughts, and loves the other person by a decision of the will
- Anyone who has experienced the love of God can make this choice with each person God brings into their life.
- Not dependent on loving feelings

Eros (human) Love

Starts with

(Loving) Feelings → Loving Thoughts → Loving Actions

Agápē (God's) Love

Starts with

Loving Thoughts → Loving Actions → Loving Feelings

Agápē (God's) love = Choosing the highest good for the other person and acting in ways that bring about that highest good.

What are some every day practical ways that we should be acting in Agápē love toward those that Jesus is putting in our path?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.