

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT LOVE?

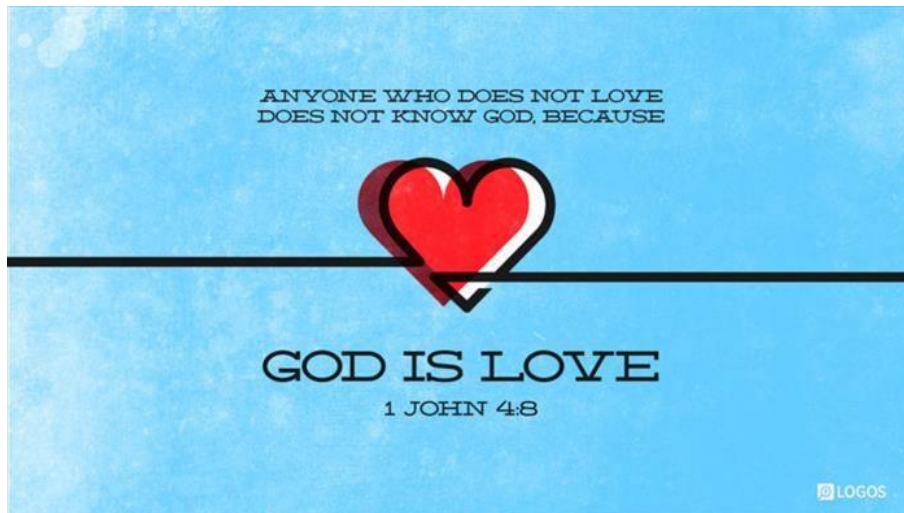
The Bible offers a fuller picture of what love looks like in our relationships with God, with others, and with ourselves.

Five ancient Greek words explain these different aspects of the word “Love”

Together, these five expressions show how God designed love to shape us emotionally, relationally, and spiritually.

God cares deeply about every dimension of love and invites us to grow in each one.

AGAPE



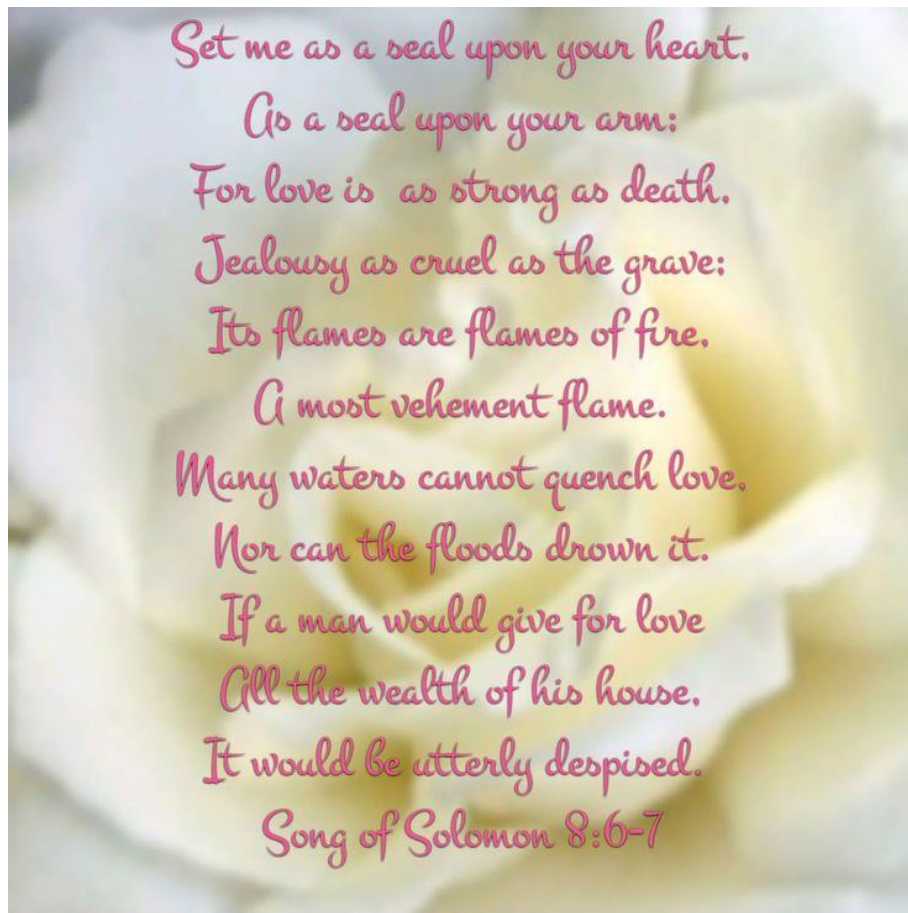
Agape is the Bible's most foundational expression of love. It is the word most often used for God's love for humanity: unconditional, sacrificial, and freely given.

Agape love is not based on feelings, performance, or worthiness. It is the love God showed by sending Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners. We do not earn God's love; we receive it. This is also the love we are called to show others, even when it is difficult or costly.

Prayer

Father God, thank you for showing us unconditional love. Help us reflect agape love by choosing forgiveness when others hurt us, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Give us the strength and wisdom to release resentment, love those who are different or difficult to love, and serve others without expecting anything in return. *Amen*

EROS



Eros describes romantic, passionate love, often expressed between spouses. Although it is sometimes misunderstood or avoided in church settings, the Bible honours romantic love as part of God's design for marriage.

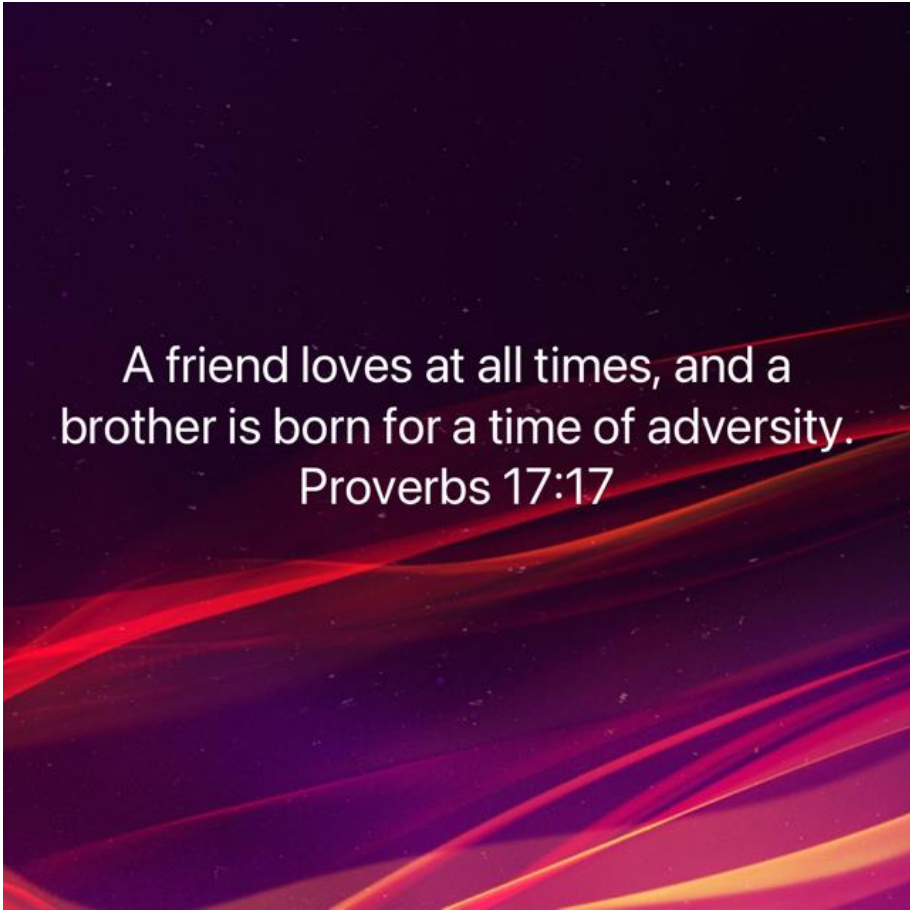
Song of Songs reminds us that desire, attraction, and intimacy are gifts from God when expressed in healthy ways.

Eros love reflects God's design for closeness, trust, and unity in marriage.

Prayer

Father God, thank you for the gift of intimacy. Help us receive it with gratitude, free from shame, and honour it as part of your design for emotional and physical connection. May we cherish eros love within marriage and remain joyful and faithful to our spouses. *Amen*

PHILIA



A friend loves at all times, and a
brother is born for a time of adversity.
Proverbs 17:17

Philia (also called phileo) is the love of friendship: loyal, warm, and rooted in genuine care. It grows through shared experiences, mutual support, and encouragement.

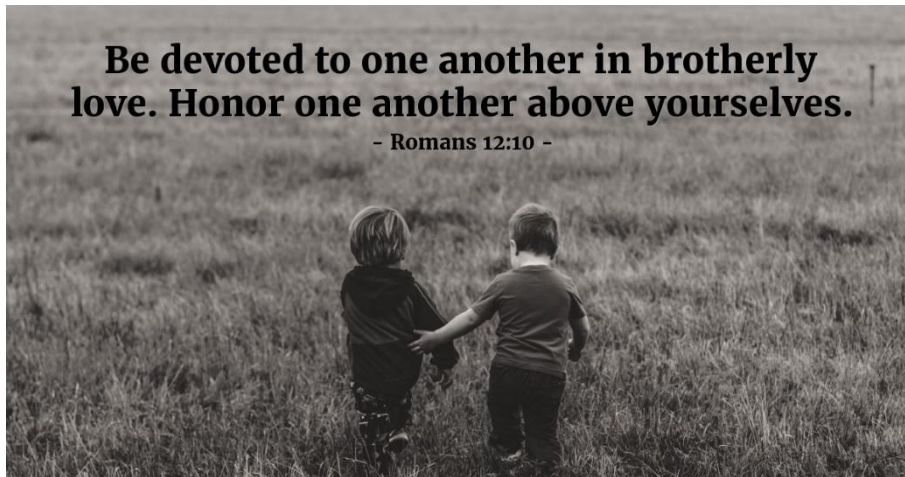
Friends who pray for us, challenge us, laugh with us, and walk beside us in hard seasons often reflect God's love in especially clear ways.

Jesus modelled this kind of love with his disciples, reminding us that friendship matters in the Kingdom of God.

Prayer

Father God, help me be a faithful friend, offering steady support and wise counsel with truth and grace. Show me how to rejoice and grieve with my friends in ways that truly strengthen and encourage them. *Amen*

STORGE



Storge is the natural affection found in families—the deep bond between parents and children or close relatives. It is a steady, committed love that grows through shared life and responsibility.

Family love can be one of the clearest expressions of care, but also one of the most complex. God calls us to shape our family relationships with patience, humility, and grace, especially when they feel strained, by relying on him for support.

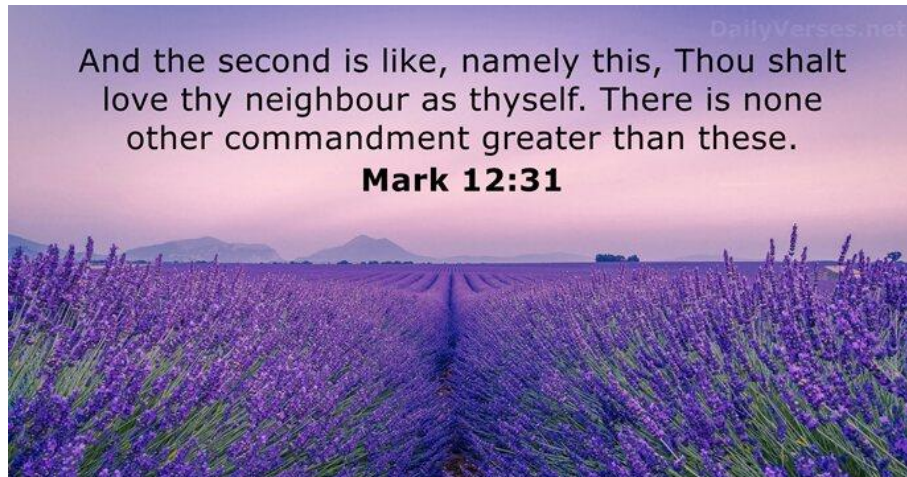
God often uses storge to teach us commitment, endurance, and sacrificial care. Scripture shows this in relationships such as Mary and Jesus, and in the love Martha and Mary had for their brother Lazarus.

Prayer

Father God, teach us to love faithfully, not only by our feelings. Use our family relationships to shape us spiritually, even when family life is difficult.

Amen

PHILAUTIA



Philautia means self-love, and Scripture shows both a healthy and an unhealthy form of it. Healthy self-love acknowledges our God-given worth and leads us to treat ourselves with care, humility, and responsibility. Unhealthy self-love turns inward, becoming prideful, selfish, and self-centred.

Loving others well often begins with knowing that God deeply loves us. When we receive his love, we are freed from both self-rejection and self-obsession.

Healthy self-love enables us to love God and others from a place of security rather than striving.

Prayer

Father God, thank you for creating each of us with value and purpose. Help us recognise our worth in you and set healthy boundaries so we do not fall into pride, selfishness, or self-centredness. Teach us to care well for our physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. *Amen*