

---

---

# ARTIOS

---

---

Volume 9 Issue 6

June 2004

## Love the Lord Jesus Christ

Twice Christians are commanded to love the Lord Jesus Christ, once with phileo and once with agape.

Jerry D. Brown



There are two references in the bible telling us to love the Lord Jesus Christ. The first one uses the Greek word Phileo, and the second one uses the Greek word Agape.

### Phileo

**1 Corinthians 16:22** If any man love [phileo] not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema [a religious ban - excommunicated] Maranatha [our Lord has come].

You may ask, "how do I love Jesus Christ when he isn't here?" The answer is given in the context of the chapter in which the verse is used.

Phileo means, "to be a friend." It refers to a friendship love and it regards affection. It reflects a fondness between two people or a person and an object.

The consequences are grave if one is not fond of Jesus Christ. He is to be excommunicated from the church. While he will not lose his eternal life, he will



*Phileo means, "to be a friend." It refers to a friendship love and it regards affection. It reflects a fondness between two people or a person and an object.*

lose his fellowship with fellow believers. Being fond of Jesus Christ is integral to being a Christian. But there is more. The context of chapter 16 teaches us how to be fond of Jesus Christ in action.

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

First on the list is watching, standing and being strong in the Christian faith. **WATCH** means

to stay awake spiritually. Don't let yourself fall asleep spiritually. This signifies that you can fall asleep, that you can stop being vigilant. **STAND FAST** means to stake yourself in position as a Christian and don't move from it no matter the odds. Christianity isn't something that you change. It is something that you are. **QUIT YOU LIKE MEN** means to act manly regarding your Christian stand. Men aren't highly emotional normally, referring that your Christian stand isn't an emotional one. It is one based on commitment and decision. **BE STRONG** means to continue growing in strength, inner strength. This means you must be operating the gift of holy spirit and you must be renewing your mind. If you are not doing these things, you are not showing a fondness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:14 Let all your things be done with charity.

**ALL YOUR THINGS** mean every thing. No matter what you do, you must adhere to the agape lifestyle. This means a strict adherence to 1 Corinthians 13.

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Love the Lord Jesus Christ

*(Continued from page 1)*

The Christian lifestyle is to be a committed and disciplined one, offering no alternative. Built within the command to phileo Jesus Christ is the command to manifest a committed and disciplined Christian lifestyle. If you are not doing this, you are not showing a fondness to Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

**MINISTRY ADDICTION** is the least of God's phileo expectations of His people. Addiction refers to an orderly and committed approach to accomplishing the things of the ministry. It means that you are there when needed and willing to give what's needed. Not doing this means you are not showing a fondness to your Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:16 That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with *us*, and laboureth.

**S U B M I T T I N G YOURSELVES** to an addicted ministry lifestyle is the least God expects. Not only this, but also to submit yourselves to the people you know are addicted to the ministry. It is to these people

who are constantly at work doing the things of the ministry that God expects His people to flock. Not doing this means you are not showing a fondness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:17 I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied.

There will be people who remain committed no matter odds and

*The responsibility of loving the Lord Jesus Christ falls on each individual Christian.*

these people give great cause for thankfulness. They work to supply the lack caused by others.

1 Corinthians 16:18 For they have refreshed my spirit and yours: therefore acknowledge ye them that are such.

Their work is highly refreshing, both spiritually and mentally and these people deserve **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**. To not acknowledge them means you are not fond of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

1 Corinthians 16:20 All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.

**SHOWING FONDNESS** to other believers and greeting them with an holy kiss is showing fondness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:21 The salutation of *me* Paul with mine own hand.

Paul was highly committed to loving the Lord Jesus Christ, so much so that he wrote these words with his own hand.

**1 Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.**

Then he made the final statement. If anyone did not show a committed lifestyle of loving the Lord Jesus Christ, they were to be excommunicated, banned from fellowship until the return of Jesus Christ. Wow! This is pretty heavy. The responsibility of loving the Lord Jesus Christ falls on each individual Christian. They are to:

- Stay awake spiritually remaining vigilant
- Stake themselves in a spiritual Christian position and don't move
- Remove emotions from

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Love the Lord Jesus Christ

(Continued from page 2)

their Christian stand

- Continue to grow in spiritual and mental strength
- Strictly adhere to the agape lifestyle
- Orderly and with commitment addict themselves to the ministry
- Submit themselves to a ministry addiction
- Submit themselves to the people who have addicted themselves to the ministry
- Acknowledge the ones who have addicted themselves to the ministry
- Show genuine fondness to other believers. Greet them with a holy kiss
- Ban those who do not follow these rules.

Strong words? Yes! Right words? Yes! Love [phileo] the Lord Jesus Christ according to these words.

## Agape

Manifesting agape to others is the second method of showing commitment and dedication to the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 6:24** Grace *be* with all them that love [agape] our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Ephesians tells us that God's grace will be with all of those who agape the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. It is available to have agape for Jesus Christ, but to not be sincere about it. God's grace is God's favor. God shows you that you are among His favorite people. He showers you with favoritism. This wonderful gifting from God is earned. While so many people think that the things of God are to come to them at no cost, you are learning that there is quite a cost

*... you are to find other Christians and manifest agape towards them. In doing so, you will be manifesting agape on behalf of Jesus Christ.*

associated with them. You are required to do your part in order to receive God's!

What does it mean to agape Jesus Christ?

The act of agape towards Jesus Christ is actually completed towards other Christians. You are not to go on a search for Jesus Christ in some remote part of the globe and when found, start manifesting agape towards him. Quite on the contrary, you are to find other Christians and manifest agape towards them. In doing so, you will be manifesting agape on behalf of Jesus Christ.

What is agape? The answer is contained in the definition of the word agape. When you understand what agape is, then you are required to live it daily, making it an integral aspect of your Christian walk. If you do this, God's grace will be all over you!

Agape is not "love" as people and bible translations would have you believe. Agape is a committed and disciplined lifestyle consisting of specific characteristics as listed in 1 Corinthians 13. It is NOT a feeling, warmth in the heart, a fuzziness all over, or anything dealing with human emotions. Agape's lifestyle commands discipline, specifically along the lines of these listed characteristics.

1 Corinthians 13:4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

1 Corinthians 13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

1 Corinthians 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

1 Corinthians 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

1 Corinthians 13:8 Charity never

(Continued on page 4)

# Love the Lord Jesus Christ

(Continued from page 3)

faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

Agape is translated “charity” in these verses. Each of these characteristics can be briefly defined as follows:

Charity suffereth long [is slow to anger], *and* is kind [is beneficial]; charity envieth not [has godly zeal]; charity vaunteth not itself [is not a braggart], is not puffed up [has no prideful thoughts], Doth not behave itself unseemly [has no manners open to censure], seeketh not her own [seek that others have salvation], is not easily provoked [maintains a fearless godly defense], thinketh no evil [does not love money]; Rejoiceth not in iniquity [has no injustice], but rejoiceth in the truth [has no wrongfulness]; Beareth all things [maintains patience], believeth all things [energizes believing], hopeth all things [maintains endurance], endureth all things [maintains patience endurance]. Charity never faileth: (1 Cor 13:4-8)

Manifesting agape to Jesus Christ is really manifesting agape on behalf of Jesus Christ towards other Christians. The subject of loving with agape the Lord Jesus Christ is really a subject of manifesting the agape lifestyle in

your daily walks to other people, Christians and non-Christians alike. You represent Christ in all that you do as a Christian and you do this by disciplining yourself according to agape characteristics.

The responsibility of agapeing the Lord Jesus Christ falls on each individual Christian. They are to:

- Stop getting so angry - put away anger

*Corruption refers to a weakening of this kind of lifestyle. It refers to a watering down of commitment, a diluted Christian walk.*

- Become beneficial to the move of God’s Word, especially in other people’s lives
- Develop godly zeal for the things of God
- Stop bragging about themselves
- Remove any prideful thoughts
- Stop censurable behaviors
- Seek salvation for others, help them become committed Christians
- Maintain a fearless godly defense
- Stops lusting and loving after money

- Remove any form of injustice
- Remove wrongfulness from their lives
- Maintain patience
- Allow believing to become energized
- Endure the Christian walk day after day
- Remain patient in this endurance
- Never stop manifesting agape in their lifestyles.

Life changing? Yes! Possible to live? Yes. Strong words? Yes! Right words? Yes!

Finally, these actions are to **BE SINCERE**. There is to be absolutely no corruption in these actions. Corruption refers to a weakening of this kind of lifestyle. It refers to a watering down of commitment, a diluted Christian walk. If you have corrupted your walk, it means that you have accepted an alternative lifestyle. Be sincere in your walk and don’t allow anyone or anything to talk you out of it.

Agape the Lord Jesus Christ according to these words.

Love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown