

First Friends Church  
February 1, 2009  
“iLove”

***Moving from capital “I” to small case “i” in our loving relationships.***

Spiritual *transformation* comes through experiencing

1. God’s presence
2. Spiritual Relationships and
3. Overcoming Opposition

***Revelation happens in communication.***

***Transformation happens in covenant relationships.***

Covenant relationships:

1. In Christ
2. In Marriage (primary metaphor in scripture)

**What is love?**

Men describe love as \_\_\_\_\_.

Women describe love as \_\_\_\_\_.

Media describes love as \_\_\_\_\_.

**A. The Bible describes love:** 3 primary root words used for “love” in scripture

1. **“Eros”** (OT Hebrew equivalent) – Romantic love; the physiological attraction (Passion).  
Romantic love for spouse - Prov. 5:18, So 8:6
2. **“Phileo”** – Love for friends and family (Intimacy).  
Lazarus - Jn. 11  
Apostle John Jn. 20:2  
Jesus friend of sinners (Lk 19:41)
3. **“Agape”** – God’s unconditional and sacrificial love (Commitment) 95% of NT.

1 Cor. 13 – *agape* is the love of God experienced, then expressed.

Contrasts: Performance-based with unconditional.

\* Not intended to be used as “Bible darts”

**B.** Love either develops or it deteriorates. It doesn’t stay the same.

From iLove to “I” love

From iDesire (invitation) to iDeserve (entitlement)

From iDesign (God’s intention) to iDemand (self’s invention)

From iCovenant to iContract

**C. “iLOVE” is *agape*.**

1. Given by God – Jn. 3:16
2. Given to others – Jn. 15:12; Ephes. 5:22ff
3. Grows and matures – 1 Cor. 13:11-12
4. Glorifies Jesus – Jn. 13:34-35

Rate your *agape* love:

1. I deserve \_\_\_\_\_.

*“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. The greatest of these is love (agape).”* 1 Cor. 13:13