14th February, 2021 **Burmah Road Gospel Hall**

**Valentine Love Versus DiVine Love**

Today the **W**orld is in Love. **It is Valentine’s Day.**

**A. The Definitions of Love in Greek.**

While English has only a single word for love,

Greek has four, and Greek philosophy refers to seven.

1. **Eros** [romantic love] => **S**exual passion (cf. *erotic*) never appears in the NT
2. **Storge** [Familial Love.] => Mutual love, not used in the NT

(except Rom. 1:31 – *natural affection*; 12:10 – *kindly affectioned*).

1. **Phileō** [Friendly or Platonic Love] =>

**E**steem, high regard, and tender affection, more **E**motional

1. **Agapē** [[Divine love](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divinity)] => **S**acrificial love.
2. **Philautia** [Self-love]
3. **Xenia** [Guest Love]
4. **Pragma**: [Committed, Companionate, Bonded love]

**What is Love? –**

I Jn. 4:8 - *He that loveth not knoweth not God;* ***for God is love****…*

*But Love is not God!*

**B. THE DELINEATIONS OF LOVE –**

1. **As Attributed to St. Valentine and Saint Valentine’s Day.**  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine%27s\_Day
2. Its Celebrat**ion**: According to Wikipedia, Valentine’s Day falls on February 14.
3. The Tradit**ion**: it is the traditional day on which lovers express their **love** for each other; sending Valentine’s cards and candy, often anonymously. It is very common to present flowers on Valentine's Day.
4. The holiday is named after two men, both Christian martyrs named Valentine

**2. As Attested to in the Divine Word -**

a. As it **O**ccurs in the **O**ld Testament - ***ʾāhaḇ***

1. General**ly**, ***ʾāhaḇ*** (<H157>), speaks of desire, affection, or inclination, "a strong emotional attachment to and desire either to possess or to be in the presence of the object." ʾ
2. Extreme**ly** wide range of meanings…its some 250 occurrences cover just about everything from "**G**od's infinite affection for his people to the carnal appetites of a lazy **G**lutton."
3. Essential**ly**, the real crux of love (*ʾāhaḇ*) lies in its object.

* A man can love "pleasure" and "wine," (Prov. 21:17).
* Likewise, it can refer to sexual lust, as Amnon had for his step-sister Tamar (II Sam. 13:1).
* A father for his son, such as Abraham had for Isaac (Gen. 22:2);
* A husband for his wife, such as Elkanah's love for Hannah (1 Sam. 1:5);
* One friend for another, as was true of David and Jonathan (20:17).

iv. Specifically, consider the two objects of Love:  
 [J.D. Watson’s: A Hebrew Word for the Day: Key Words from the Old Testament]

* God’s Love for His people. God "*loved Israel for ever*" I Kgs. 10:9

In spite of their **S**piritual adultery… Hosea 3:1; cf. Mal. 1:2; 2:11

In spite of their **S**mall numbers: Deut. 7:7, 8; cf. 4:37

* The People’s Love for God. Deut. 6:5 (cf. Matt. 22:37-38:

*Thou shalt* ***love*** *the Lord thy God with all thine heart,…all thy soul,…all thy might.*

* ***Heart*** is *lēḇāḇ* (<H3824>), i.e. with the whole of the inner **P**erson and **P**ersonality.
* ***Soul*** is *nep̱eš* (<H5315>), meaning "**B**reath, the act of **B**reathing, and figuratively the inner **B**eing with its thoughts and emotions."
* ***Might*** then, is *meʾōḏ* (<H3966>), indicating **M**igh**t**, power, will, or even "**M**uchness." While the world tells us that love is feelings (which often amounts simply to lust), real love is an act of the will.

b. As it occurs in the New Testament.

1. The **A**cts of ***A****gape* =

* A **S**elf-emptying **S**elf-**S**acrifice in which God gave of Himself in the form of His only begotten **S**on Who gave His Life for us.
* **I**t **I**llustrates the **I**ntensity and **I**nfinity of God’s Love.

ii. The **P**ractice of ***P****hileo*.

Jn 11:3 – *Therefore his sisters sent unto Him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom Thou lovest* (phileis, as in 11:11) *is sick.*

Jn. 16:27 *- For the Father Himself* ***loveth*** *you, because ye have* ***loved*** *Me, and have believed that I came out from God.*

*Phileō* = love as a *friend* (Jn. 11:11 cf. 15:15) warmly, used of God's love for the disciples. *Ye have loved Me* (*pephilēkate*). Perfect active indicative of phileō, "*loved and still love me warmly*."

**C. THE DIFFERENCES OF LOVE – Its Messages:**

**1. Valentine Love Messages – their Superficiality:**

a. "I've always loved you, and when you love someone, you love the whole person, just as he or she is, and not as you would like them to be." - Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina

b. “The single, most extraordinary thing I’ve ever done with my life is fall in love with you.”- Beth Pearson (This is Us)

c. If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day so that I never have to live without you" - A. A. Milne

**2. Divine Love Messages – their Superiority and Supremacy:**

Jn. 3:16 – *God so* ***loved*** *the world.*

Rom. 8:5-8 – *God Commended His* ***Love****…Christ died for us.*

Rom. 5:5 - *the* ***Love*** *of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

1. *"And when you smile, the whole world stops and stares for a while, 'cause you're amazing, just the way you are."* - Bruno Mars (Just The Way You Are)
2. *"You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep, because reality is finally better than your dreams."* - Dr. Seuss
3. *“The single, most extraordinary thing I’ve ever done with my life is fall in love with you.”* - Beth Pearson (This is Us)
4. *"I will love you my whole life. You and no other."* - Braveheart
5. *"Take love, multiply it by infinity and take it to the depths of forever... and you still have only a glimpse of how I feel for you."*- Meet Joe Black
6. *“My heart is, and always will be, yours.“* - Jane Austen, Sense and Sensibility

A fight between husband and wife (both with MA in English literature).   
Instead of resorting to shouting, abusing or physical force...   
they write poems to each other. ....

WIFE{ I wrote your name on sand it got washed.

I wrote your name in air, it was blown away.

Then I wrote your name on my heart & I got Heart Attack.

WIFE: Twinkle twinkle little star

You should know what you are

And once you know what you are

Mental hospital is not so far

WIFE: Roses are red; Violets are blue

Monkeys like you should be kept in a zoo.

HUSBAND: God saw me hungry, he created pizza. He saw me thirsty, he created Pepsi.

He saw me in the dark, he created light.

He saw me without problems, he created YOU.

HUSBAND: The rain makes all things beautiful

The grass and flowers too.

If rain makes all things beautiful

Why doesn't it rain on you?

HUSBAND: Don't feel so angry you will find me there too

Not in cage but laughing at you!!

**2. Divine Love Messages – their Supremacy and Superiority: I Jn. 4:8, 16** *He that loveth not knoweth not God;* ***for God is love.*** ***God is love****; and he that dwelleth in* ***love*** *dwelleth in God, and God in him.*

***The Standard Divine Love Message***

***Jn. 3:16 –***

***For*** *The Connection to the Picture of the Serpent on the Cross. 3:14*

***God*** The **S**overeign Deity, **C**reator, **S**elf-existing – **G**od, the **G**reat ***I AM***

1. In the **C**ase of Israel: *The LORD did not set His love upon you,*

i. His **C**hoice of Israel*: nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people;*

*for ye were the fewest of all people:*

ii. His **C**haracter: *But because the LORD loved you…*

iii. His **C**ovenant and His **C**ommandment:

*Know therefore that the LORD thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations.*

b. In the **C**ase of the **C**hurch and the **C**hristian:

i. His **S**overeign **C**hoice of the **C**hurch Eph. 1:4

*According* ***as He hath chosen us*** *in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in* ***love****:*

ii. His **S**overeign **C**hoice of the **C**hristian. Jn. 15:16, 19

*Ye have not chosen Me, but* ***I have chosen you****, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain…*

*If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but* ***I have chosen you*** *out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*

***So* I**thas many meanings. Among them are:

“**I**n this manner... in the way described" (Thayer) in 3:14

**I**nvolves Intensity and means "so greatly" (Thayer).

**I**mplies Infinitely all the way cf. Heb. 7:25

***Loved*** It is *agapaō –* a **S**elf-emptying **S**elf-**S**acrifice Love.

Phil. 2:7-8, HSCB – *He emptied Himself…by becoming obedient to the point of death even to death on a cross.*

Past Tense, yet True also of the Present – Rom. 8:39

***the world*** I Jn. 2:15 - *Love not the world* (**S**ystems), *neither the things that are in the world.*

*If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

Yet *God so loved the world*, i.e. the **S**inners in the world!

***That He gave*** Rom. 5:6, 8, 10 *– God commendeth His Love toward us…*

***w****hen we were without* ***S****trength;*

***w****hile we were yet* ***S****inners*  ***Christ died for us…******w****hen we were enemies..*

***His Only Begot-ten Son*** Rom. 8:32 - *He that* ***S****pared not His own* ***S****on, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

*Monogenēs,* **not** *only* or *one and only*. It is a compound from *mono* = only, alone, without others, and *genos* = offspring, stock. Thus, only offspring or only born one. Jesus is not the only Son of God cf. Rom. 8:29 He is ***the uniquely begotten One*** cf. Jn. 11:14, 18; 3:18; I Jn. 4:9

**Will Valentine Love ever accomplish any of these things for us?**

***That whosoever*** Jn. 6:37 – *No one will be cast out. They become children of God by believing in and receiving Him, Jn. 1:12, 13*

***Believeth in Him*** *To believe is to Confess Him as Lord, Rom. 10:9, believe His Person and Precepts and show evidence in their Performance as those Heroes in* Heb. 11:1, 6

***Should not perish*** *Hell is a reality - }*Mt. 5:29, 30

*It is not annihilation }*

***but have ever lasting life.*** *Heaven is a present and future prospect cf. Jn. 10:10*

**D. The Distinctiveness of Divine Love.**

1. **Divine Love’s Defence against any Charge.** Romans 8:31-39

***What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?***

***He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all,***

***How shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?***

***Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?*** *It is God that justifieth.*

***Who is he that condemneth?*** *It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

***Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?***

***Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?***

*As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

*Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through* ***Him that loved us.***

*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth,*

*Nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from* ***the love of God****, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**2. Divine Love’s Personal Challenge and Commission. Jn. 21:15-17  
Cf.** Peter’s Three Denials: Jn. 18:17, 25, 27

*So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter,* [agapas]

*Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these?*  [phileis[

*He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee.*] [boske]

*He saith unto Him, Feed My lambs.* [poimaine]

*He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?*

*He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee.*

*He saith unto Him, Feed My sheep.*

*He saith unto Him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? Peter was grieved because He said unto him the third time, lovest thou Me? And he said unto Him, Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed My sheep.*

* Summary:  
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2. **THE DELINEATIONS OF LOVE.**
3. **As Attributed to St. Valentine and Saint Valentine’s Day.**

**2. As Attested to in the Divine Word –**

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3. **Divine Love Messages – their Superiority and Supremacy.**

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**2. Divine Love’s Personal Challenge & Commission. Jn. 21:15-17**

**Acknowledgement**:  
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