

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Cor 13:13 (NIV)

Phileo - Affection, fondness or liking. This love is called out of one's heart as a response to the pleasure one takes in a person or object.

Agape - Faithful, committed, act of the will. This love keeps on loving even when the loved one is unresponsive, unkind, unlovable or unworthy. It is an unconditional love.

Eros - Erotic, a love of passion. This love involves an emotional connection based on body chemistry. An overmastering passion that seizes and absorbs the mind.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

John 3:16, 19 (NIV)

WHY IS LOVE THE GREATEST?

1. LOVE RESEMBLES GOD

*God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. **1 John 4:16-17 (NIV)***

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. **John 13:35 (NIV)***

2. LOVE CHANGES ME

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)***

*Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. **Matthew 4:18-20 (NASB)***

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 16:13-18 (NIV)

3. LOVE GIVES ME A MISSION

*When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!" **John 21:15-19 (NIV)***

*Hearing that Jesus silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart and with all of your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as your self.' All the law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." **Matthew 22:34-40 (NIV)***