

Introduction – 3 kinds of love:

1. Eros Love

Proverbs 5:15-19

This is need love. It is based upon physical attraction and fulfillment. This love is necessary for marriage to succeed; however, marriage cannot be sustained by eros alone.

2. Phileo Love

Romans 12:9-13

This is friendship love. The Bible uses the word “companionship” several times in describing what a marriage relationship is. Phileo love means reciprocal sharing of time, activities, the home, hobbies, games, and other objects of common fellowship.

3. Agape Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

This is a giving love. This can be unilateral in that one loves even when the other doesn't respond as expected. It is self-giving in meeting real needs of the other with the purpose of helping the person to become a better, more mature individual. Agape love takes the initiative and energizes the other two kinds of love.

Is it “Love” or “Infatuation?”

Test #1 - TIME

- Love grows, and all growth requires time.
- Infatuation may come suddenly.

Test #2 - KNOWLEDGE

- Love grows out of an appraisal of all the known characteristics of the other person.
- Infatuation may arise from an acquaintance with only a few or only one of these characteristics.

Test #3 – FOCUS

- Love is other-person-centered. It is outgoing. It results in sharing.
- Infatuation is self-centered.

Test #4 – SINGULARITY

- Genuine love is centered on one person only.
- An infatuated individual may be “in love” with two or more persons simultaneously.

Test #5 – SECURITY

- An individual in love tends to have a sense of security and a feeling of trust after considering everything involved in his relationship with the other person.
- An infatuated individual tends to have a blind sense of security based upon wishful thinking rather than upon careful consideration, or he may have a sense of insecurity that is sometimes expressed as jealousy.

Test #6 – WORK

- An individual in love works for the other person or for their mutual benefit. He may study to make the other person proud of him. His ambition is spurred and he plans and saves for the future. He may daydream, but his dreams are reasonably attainable.
- An infatuated person may lose his ambition, his appetite, his interest in everyday affairs. He thinks of his own misery. He often daydreams, but his dreams are sometimes not limited to the attainable and are given free rein. At times the dreams become substitutes for reality and the individual lives in his world of dreams.

Test #7 – PROBLEM SOLVING

- A couple in love faces problems frankly and attempts to solve them. If there are barriers to their getting married, these barriers are approached intelligently and removed. Whatever barriers that cannot be removed may be circumvented, but with the knowledge that what is done is deliberate circumvention.
- In infatuation, problems tend to be disregarded or glossed over.

Test #8 – DISTANCE

- Love tends to be constant.
- Infatuation often varies with the distance between the couple.

Test #9 – PHYSICAL ATTRACTION & INVOLVEMENT

- Physical attraction is a relatively smaller part of their total relationship when a couple is in love. When a couple is in love, any physical contact they have tends to have meaning as well as be a pleasurable experience in and of itself. It tends to express what they feel toward each other.
- In infatuation, physical contact tends to be an end in itself. It represents only pleasurable experience devoid of meaning.

Test #10 – AFFECTION

- In love an expression of affection tends to come relatively late in the couple's relationship.
- In infatuation, it may come earlier, sometimes from the very beginning.

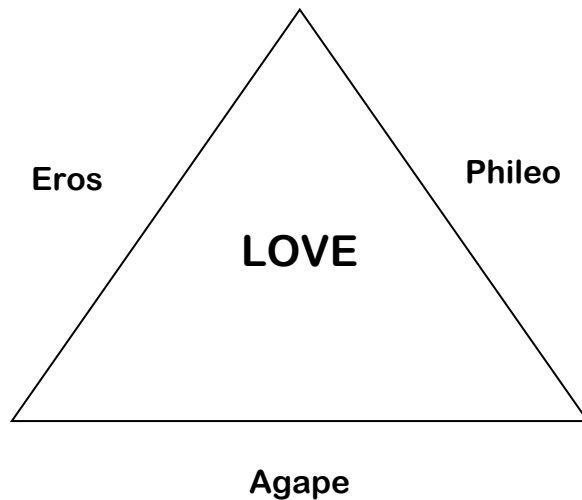
Test #11 – STABILITY

- Love tends to endure.
- Infatuation may change suddenly, unpredictably.

Test #12 – DELAYED GRATIFICATION

- A couple in love is not indifferent to the effects of postponement of their wedding and do not prolong the period of postponement unless they find it wiser to wait a reasonable time; they do not feel an almost irresistible drive toward haste.
- Infatuated couples tend to feel an urge toward getting married. Postponement is intolerable to them and they interpret it as deprivation rather than preparation.

How to improve your love life:



1. **A word to singles** – Keep your _____ and _____ involvement behind your leading from God and commitment to the other person.
2. **A word to the married** – Love requires the nourishment of all three kinds of love. Examine which one _____ needs most and choose to give it as an act of worship to God.

Resources:

Experiencing God's Dream for Your Marriage – CD/MP3/DVD Small Group Study – Chip Ingram
Relationships – Dr.'s Les & Leslie Parrott
Intimate Allies - Dan Allendar, Tremper Longman