

Topic: Love  
Women in the Word Lesson  
10/27/2020  
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Theme: Love in Action  
I John 4:7-21 (NIV)

## Love in Action

**Matt. 22: 34-40:** Hearing that Jesus had 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 your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."



### The Love Command

A form of the word "love" appears \_\_ \_\_ times in I John 4:7-21. In some translations (and in the original Greek) the salutation means "Beloved," so you can add another "love" to the love list. Clearly, it's important.

Now that you've completed your personal study of the passage, you may have additional questions (Bible study works that way). For example, what does love look like? And, more specifically, what does the love in I John look like? Let's examine, briefly, four types of love that would have been familiar to the Greeks:

1. **Eros** is romantic love. In the Bible, think Jacob and Rachel.
2. **Philia** is the love we associate with friendships. In the Bible, think David and Jonathan. Or John and Jesus. They shared a special friendship.
3. **Storge** is affectionate love, and it is exemplified in family relationships or relationships that feel like family. And, yes, your pet qualifies. In the Bible, think Paul and Timothy.
4. **Agape** refers to the love that God has for us, and it is the love He expects us to have for each other. It is a love that desires the best for the beloved, even when the beloved seems "unloveable." In the Bible, think Jesus.

**John 4:1-42:** In this passage we read about Jesus and the woman at the well. You'll be able to fill in the blanks at the end of the story.

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ her on her home turf.
2. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ rapport.
3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ with her what they have in common.
4. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ her sin without rejecting her.
5. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ her living water.

Love (agape) is not a feeling; it is not an emotion. It is *action*.



**This week:** Choose one passage and consider how you will apply it.

**I Thess. 3:12-13:** May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

- In what ways does the Lord make our love increase?

**I John 4:9-12:** This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

- Pray that God will continue to show us how to love one another.

C. S. Lewis: "Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbour; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him." (*Mere Christianity*)