

## What Now? || 6.10.2018

Today is a day to remind ourselves where we are going together by refocusing on **WHAT** our purpose is as a church and setting our sights on **HOW** we go about accomplishing this task.

### Agape Exists to Love the Lord Above All

*Classically speaking, our human faculties are made up of the mind, the will, and the affections. Using these, then, love is **rooted in knowledge**; love is **exercised in willful decision**; and love is **experienced in the affections**. To love someone involves all of this*  
- (Hyde)

The Bible connects love for God with...

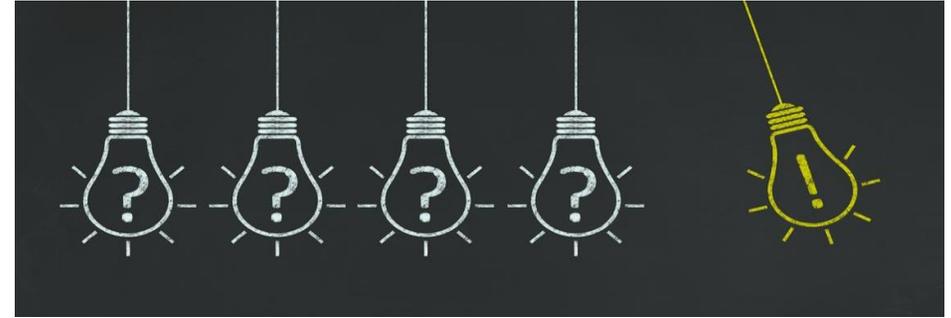
- **Knowledge** of God. (Psalm 40:8)
- **Obedience** to God. (1 John 2:5)
- **Emotions** for God. (1 Peter 1:8)

Jesus is the **word** of God that became flesh. Therefore, love for God is...

- **Founded**
- **Sustained**
- **Perfectured**

...through the truth of scripture.

**Life Truth:** The **depth** and **height** of our love for God is directly connected to our **experience** with His word.



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## Agape Exists to Love our Neighbor as Jesus Loves Us

A neighbor is literally **one nearby**. In scripture they are...

- Those **inside** the community of faith.
- Those **outside** the community of faith.
  - Emphasis on crossing **ethnic** and **national** boundaries.

**Life Truth:** Our love for our neighbor is to be intentionally **indiscriminate**.

*Encourage each other **DAILY**, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness (Hebrews 3:13)*

- **Encourage** can mean comfort, exhort, persuade, or admonish.
- God has designed the community of faith as a source of **spiritual protection** for His people.

## Agape Exists to Make Disciples

*"If an **unbeliever** or an **inquirer** comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgement by all, as the secrets of their heart are laid bare. So, they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is Really among you!" (1 Corinthians 14:24-25)*

As a church we...

- Strive to accomplish these purposes together **corporately**.
- Strengthen each other to live out these purposes **individually** in the context God has placed us.

3 attributes must characterize Agape as we strive toward our purpose:

- We must **rely** on the **power** of Christ. (Jeremiah 17:5,7)
  - Dependence demonstrated through **prayer**.
- We must **imitate** the character of Christ.
  - The love we have must bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things. (1 Cor 13:7)
- We must make the most of every **opportunity**. (Ephesians 5:16)
  - Consider every 5-minute encounter you have as an opportunity to display the **manifold grace** of Christ.

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