
The Three Faces of Love, Part II (PHILEO: The Love Of A Friend)

First Love

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Sermon: First Love: The Three Faces of Love, Part II (PHILEO: The Love Of A Friend)

Lesson Text

John 15:13–17 (KJV)¹³ Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. ¹⁵ Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. ¹⁶ 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: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, that ye love one another.

1 Samuel 18:1–3 (KJV)¹ And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. ² And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house. ³ Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

Introduction

Last week we began a 3-part series on The three forms or faces of love:

- Eros: which is passion and intimacy between a man and woman, designed to meet needs.
- Phileo: which is a high and noble form of brotherly love, affection and friendship.
- Agape: which is the highest form of love, deriving from God, and based on will not emotions

We learned that Eros love was a good love; so good that Jacob was willing to work 7 years for Rachel. But it also has a bad side when we have a failure to care, and a ugly side when we have a failure to protect. And so we must stop being a victim of its failures and weaknesses.

Next week we will look at the power of Agape Love, but today we want to study the brotherly, affectionate, and friendship of Phileo love.

John 13:³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵ By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

So not only are we to be identified by Eros Love, we must also be identified by Phileo Love of Friendship.

This is a fascinating love, because it apparently supersedes Eros love between a man and a woman:

- John 15:¹³ Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
- Many couples are lovers, but they are not very good friends, if at all.

It also apparently supersedes Familial love of family:

- Mark 3:³³ And he answered them, saying, **Who is my mother, or my brethren?** ³⁵ For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

- Family may be blood, but something they will fall out with you.

Proverbs 18: ²⁴ A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that sticketh* closer than a brother.

Not only does this proverb imply that the Phileo Love of a friend can be closer than a brother, it also indicates that it must be pursued.

Most adults don't have very many friends. Why? Because we stop pursuing them.

Kids can walk into a pre-school classroom for the first time, and by the end of the day have 5 best friends. They can get into a fight with them, and 30 minutes later be best friends again.

But not adults! We hold grudges so long that we forget why we were even fighting. We become estranged from family and divorce spouses because of something that hurt us. And eventually because of past hurts, pains, and betrayal we just stop pursuing friendships.

Although Phileo love is a powerful love, it must be pursued and maintained.

In our second lesson text, we see how the soul of Jonathan was knitted with the soul of David; and they made a covenant (unbreakable promise) with their friendship and loved each other as their own soul.

We should love everybody, but like Jesus, we have to choose our friends.

Series and Sermon: First Love: The Three Faces of Love, Part II (PHILEO: The Love Of A Friend)

(Love that is Called, Love that is Chosen, Love that is Committed)

I. PHILEO Love is Called (Knitting The Mind)

John 15: ¹⁴ **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.** ¹⁵ **Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.**

Phileo love is first a calling to knit our minds together in agreement.

This is the first challenge we must deal with in order to be identified by phileo love, our inability to walk in agreement.

We can be lovers but not friends, co-workers and neighbors, but not friends, even church members but not friends. Because we fail to walk in agreement.

We were raised differently, we were taught differently, we have different value systems, we come from different cultures. And these differences prevent us from walking in phileo love.

Amos 3: ³ Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Phileo love is a calling to agreement.

John 15: ¹⁴ **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.**

Jesus called us friends when we knitted our minds with his through agreement.

Philippians 2: ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

2 Chronicles 7: ¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

And when two people knit their minds in agreement, it gives them power!

Matthew 18: ¹⁹ Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

II. PHILEO Love is Chosen (Knitting The Emotions)

John 15: ¹⁶ 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: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

Phileo love is next a choice to knit our emotions together in affection.

Matthew 22: *For many are called, but few are chosen.*

Once we accept the calling of friendship through our minds, we must choose the affection of friendship over our emotions.

Emotions are experienced, but affections are chosen.

It is the experience of emotions that can destroy friendships.

Ephesians 4: ²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷ Neither give place to the devil.

We get angry with how we're neglected by our spouse, treated by our family, mistreated on our job, and hurt by those we once considered friends. We are no longer in agreement, and our emotions give the enemy access to destroy our relationships.

Phileo love is a choice of affection.

Emotions are how you make me feel, but affection is how I choose to feel.

Colossians 3: ¹ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

You made me angry, but I choose to care for you. You made me mad, but I choose to love you.

Joshua 24: ¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

III. PHILEO Love is Committed (Knitting The Will)

John 15: ¹³ **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

Phileo love is finally the endurance to knit our wills together based on the will of God.

To knit our souls together in Phileo Love,

- We must knit our minds together in agreement (Called)
- We must knit our emotions together in affection (Chosen)
- We must knit our wills together in sacrifice (Committed)

In marriage we say for better or for worse, until worse shows up. We say for rich or for poor, until poor lasts too long. We say in sickness or in health, until sickness is too much

David asked this question: Psalm 15: ¹ LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

His answer was: Psalm 15: ⁴ ... *He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.*

Luke 22:42 (KJV)⁴² Saying, **Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**

In order to knit our wills together, we must be committed even when it's hard, even when it's the worst, even when it's the poor, even when it's the sickness, even when it hurts.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Three Faces of Love, Part II (PHILEO: The Love Of A Friend))

Lesson Text

- John 15:13-17; 1 Samuel 18:1-3

Sermon Outline

- I. *PHILEO Love is Called (Knitting the Mind)***
- II. *PHILEO Love is Chosen (Knitting the Emotions)***
- III. *PHILEO Love is Committed (Knitting the Will)***

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. Are you more of a “plan it out person” or a “go with the flow” person... And has that helped or hurt you lately?
2. What’s something you used to believe or think one way about... but see differently now?

II. Into The Bible

1. Why is it important that Jesus called his disciples friends rather than servants in John 15:15?
2. Read 1 John 3:16-20 and explain what it means when it says we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

II. Life Application

1. How does obeying the command to love others deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ?
2. What are some practical ways to express love through help, listening and generosity?