

God's Way

A Guide for

Loving

Agape is...

Abounding

God's love is life-giving because it generates itself. As it waits for our response it grows and grows until it can handle everything; all of our flaws and our mistakes and rebellion.

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Psalms 103:8

Storge must have predictability and familiarity. It extends itself only to approved and known behaviors. Once someone steps out of bounds it turns its face and runs the other way.

Philippians 1:6

Jesus.

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ

Colossians 2:6

in him,

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives

Philippians 2:13

purpose.

for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good

God does the changing

Agape is...

Compelling

God's love is not indifferent. He passionately cares for us and is preoccupied with our well-being. He places His Spirit inside of us so that we can be with Him every second of every day (if we want). He waits patiently for us to respond and doesn't love us less because of the waiting.

...I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

Jeremiah 31:3

Storge puts people on a schedule. It may only pay attention to a person if it has nothing else to do. It is fickle and moves on if it loses interest.

torments with shame.

Storge love is not like this. Instead of covering and forgetting, it makes lists to pull out later to balance things out. It keeps score. It exposes and

Isaiah 61:10

like a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head

Then He clothes us with His own righteousness:

Psalms 91:4

and under his wings you will find refuge;

He will cover you with his feathers,

He doesn't shame. He gathers us under His wings:

would cover all of us with His own righteousness (Hebrews 11).

God made clothes for them: It was a picture of how Jesus

Even though Adam and Eve exposed their own nakedness,

Covering

...is Agape

Agape is...

Sacrificial

In all other religions, people give to their gods. Our God did not ask for offerings and sacrifices to appease His fierce wrath. He required blood to be shed to cover our sin. It was for our sakes, not His.

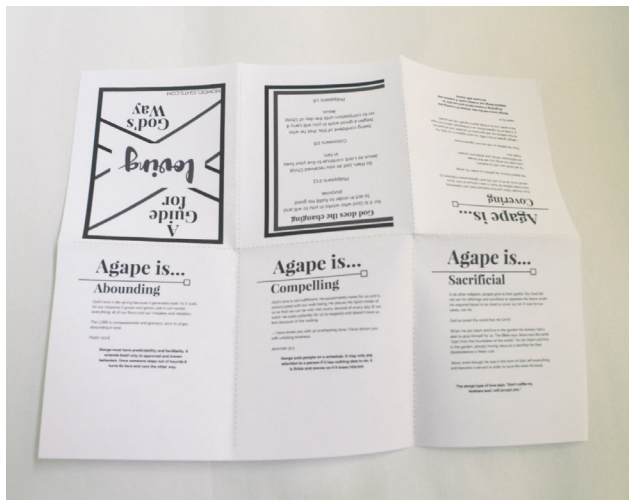
God so loved the world that He GAVE

When He set Adam and Eve in the garden He already had a plan to give Himself for us. The Bible says Jesus was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He set Adam and Eve in the garden, already having Jesus as a sacrifice for their disobedience (1 Peter 1:20).

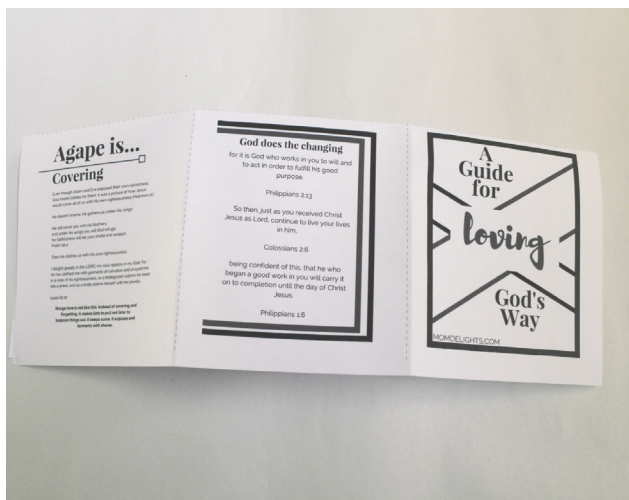
Jesus, even though He was in the form of God, left everything and became a servant in order to save the ones He loves.

The storge type of love says, "Don't ruffle my feathers and I will accept you."

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

