

“Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity” (Hebrews 6:1a).

Three Kinds of Love

- God is love (1 John 4:8).
- 1 Corinthians 13:13
- Love is “the summit of all revelation” (Robert Law quoted in John Stott, Epistles of John, p.160).
- In ancient Greek, there were _____ words for love: *eros*, *philia*, and *agape*.
 - *Eros* refers to _____ love.
 - *Philia* refers to love of friendship and companionship.
 - *Agape* refers to selfless and _____ love.

Becoming Like Jesus in Love

- On the cross of Jesus, we see the _____ depiction of *agape* the world has ever known.
 - John 15:13
 - Romans 5:6-8
- Jesus gave his life for those in **active** rebellion against him.
- Love your enemies (Matthew 5:43-44).
- Stephen – deacon, martyr, example of Christ-like love
- If you are a Christian, united with Christ by God’s grace through faith in Jesus, YOU are being remade into the kind of person

who will _____ love your enemies like Stephen loved his.

- God’s love is merciful, _____, and giving.
- *Agape* includes _____ action on behalf of others.
- *Christ of Saint John of the Cross* by Salvador Dali

Remaining in God’s Love

- John 15:9
- We’re to make the love of Jesus our place of _____.

“The disciple [of Jesus]... can be relieved of anxiety about fruit-bearing. He has only one task – to ‘abide in the vine.’ The rest is the work of the Gardener” (Lesslie Newbigin, The Light Has Come. P.197-198).

- Love for God is _____ in obedience to God.

Reflection Questions

1. In your own words, define the three kinds of love mentioned in the message.
2. Why is the cross the clearest example of *agape* the world has ever seen?
3. When you think about loving enemies with selfless, sacrificial love, what is the first reason that comes to mind as to why you can’t (or don’t want to) do that? What if Jesus had used that reason with you?
4. Jesus told us to dwell in his selfless, sacrificial love. What helps you do that? And when you sense you are dwelling in the love of Christ, what are the side effects in your life?
5. What was the most challenging part of this message for you?
6. How is God getting your attention?
7. What might God be saying to you?
8. What is your next faithful step?