



## The End of Agape?

**H**ave you ever wondered what could stop agape? Agape is the Greek word for “love” in the King James Bible. It is also translated “charity.” Charity is a better translation, but it still does not capture its true meaning. Agape is better rendered as a “Code of Conduct.” It is a collection of characteristics that Christians are supposed to fully embrace and act upon. Agape applied determines true Christian behavior and has the power to rule whole societies. But what can stop it? Man controls the world. He does things that cause effects, some determined, some undetermined.

*Today, the “control” clamor is all about*



*global warming.* The activists for global warming have now reported that the next one hundred years will severely impact many areas in the world, especially where the climates are already hot and also where many poor people live. The critics claim that there is no such thing as global warming. One thing we all can agree on is that man causes far too much pollution. He controls how good or bad the air is because of his activities.

*Another example of how man controls*

*the world lies within the many judicial and religious systems present.*

All of these forge societies built upon their very laws and rules. Depending on the quality of a judicial system or religious system, the ruled people will either be seen as a value to the world or a detriment. No matter how they are seen, we can see that these systems, controlled by man, are greatly affecting our quality of life.

*Christians are supposed to live according to the Agape Code of Conduct.*

But what can stop agape from being such a grand blessing to the Christian society and the world as

# The End of Agape?

a whole?

And because iniquity shall abound, the love [agape] of many shall wax cold. (Matthew 24:12)

Here we learn that “iniquity” will cause agape to grow (wax) cold. Can you imagine “cold” agape? That’s a really scary thought. If the users of agape stopped using it as their Code of Conduct, the opposites of agape would reign.

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. (Luke 16:13)

You can’t be given to iniquity and agape at the same time. You can only serve one master. This means that you only have the capacity to focus your service on one master, not two. For instance, if you are

given to sin and lawlessness, you will not be abiding by the agape Code of Conduct. On the other hand, if you are given to the agape characteristics, you will not be abiding in iniquity. Pretty cool, huh?

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:16-18)

God’s manifestation of agape centers upon salvation. That being - all aspects of salvation including: the promise of the coming seed

made to Adam and Eve in the garden; the prophecies in the Old Testament of the coming Messiah; the wandering messenger – John the Baptist – announcing the birth of the Christ; Jesus’ birth and his life on earth; the resurrection of Christ; the imminent gathering together of the Christian saints; and all the remaining grandeur of eternal salvation. With all this in mind, there are those who oppose our Father God, and His truly special Agape Code of Conduct.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. (John 3:19-21)

# The End of Agape?

The word “condemnation” means, “judgment.” *Men control the world and they bring upon themselves judgment because of their own actions.* In this case, these men used a very negative code of conduct ruled by darkness. Christians, on the other hand, use an agape Code of Conduct ruled by light. There is a huge difference between the two, and because man, today, can choose between the two, we always have the two evidences in our societies. The bad guys really hate the light and seek darkness, far removed from light. They do bad things, reject God and especially reject the “light” form of agape. These are people who abide in iniquity. These are people who cause agape to “wax” or grow cold.

The Word is extremely clear on the subject of proving your love for God and His Christ.

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. (John 14:23-24)

“Love” in the preceding verses are all derived from agape. Again, you can see the stark contrast between good and evil, people who walk with agape, and people who walk in darkness. I am showing you these verses so that you may know that there are those who cause agape to “wax” or grow cold.

*How well do you walk according to the Agape Code of Conduct?* Man

controls the world, and determines its' quality of life. Are you one of those who always complain about how bad things are? If you are, do you live according to agape?

If you don't, why not start now?

*Man controls his own quality of life, and if enough men determine to live according to agape, whole societies will change.* We will get rid

of the anger that pervades our lives.

We will get rid of the laziness in the men who do not benefit from the things of God. We will get rid

of envy and pride. We will get rid of those who allow their minds to swell on worldly things. We will

get rid of unseemly behavior. We will get rid of selfishness. We will get rid of empty challenges

designed to provoke people away from God. Most importantly, we will get rid of evil in the lives of

God's elect.

Man controls the world. What part of it can you control for the good of the things of God and the move

of His Word? Now that you know what can stop agape, what can you do to start it and keep it going?

# The End of Agape?

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The Agape Code of Conduct:

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown