

## False Universal Love

There are many misconceptions about Universal Love. Some think love is agape if it embraces a large group—like all old people, all refugees, all whales, etc. But what about the rest of life? True love responds to *all* of life. So if the brain has decided to restrict loving to a particular category, that is not the real spirit of agape.

Some think agape love is social activism. But passionate humanity service doesn't always reflect mature agape love. Imagine the head of a large save-the-orphans project. He's dedicated to the orphans, but when his wife walks into his office he ignores her. A true agape lover wouldn't fail to love those close to him as well.

Some think love is agape if it is impersonal (as in: "I love everyone, but no one in particular"). But is it possible to love *everyone* if you won't love *anyone*? No, it's just a concept—and a cop out. Real love sees, feels, and cares for the beloved. And that takes courage. It requires that we open our hearts, transcend our egos, trust, serve, be vulnerable. The preference for impersonal love comes from fear and resistance to deeper loving and giving, seeing and being seen. A real agape lover would love *each* one with real feeling, care, and consideration.

Love without personal passion and feeling is a bird with clipped wings. Feeling gives love clout and makes it effective; universal love is no exception. Universal love is not mediocre or impersonal. *All* real love is passionate, invested, committed. Anyone who gives and lives real love is on fire with that love, and thoroughly implicated by it. Their agape love will be real, intense, nurturing—by no means boring or unemotional. *That's* agape!

## UNIVERSAL LOVE (Agape)

A real  
agape lover  
would watch  
people walk  
by and  
be in love  
with every  
one of them.

## True Universal Love

Agape—universal love—is the natural response of the heart to the feelings and existence of all of life. In agape, you walk down the street and you are moved by people, by their sweetness, their suffering, their joy. You love the thoughtfulness of one, the humor of another. You love all the flowers, every single one. That's the *nature* of the Divine heart within us. We feel agape when we let our heart respond naturally.

Human beings were born to love many. Often, people want their mate to love them *only*, and forsake all others—especially friends of the opposite sex. But that's asking them to betray their heart-nature, which loves and responds to all. A deal with the devil!

Loving many doesn't mean you love your mate any less. A mother of four doesn't divide up her love, and give each child 25%. Of course not! She loves each one wholeheartedly, passionately, fully. Love doesn't get smaller when we spread it around—only bigger.

And loving many doesn't mean you'll be unfaithful, either. True love is *moral*, with high sensitivity to the good of one and all, and ample self-discipline. It's not —*decidedly not*—driven by whimsy or selfish desire.

When love is allowed to respond to life fully, freely, *without* preference or selective withholding, *that's* true agape.