

There Is Only One Way To Know True Love !

As humans we can only learn and mature through relationships.

The child learns to walk, talk and read through a relationship with their parents and teachers.

The characteristics we have we learnt from our parents, siblings or our peer group.

Mostly what we are is the result of the influence of those we have relationships with.

How can we learn true love?

In English, the word “*love*” is used in a wide range of meanings.

We say we “*love*” certain music, foods and a wide range of experiences.

In the original Greek language in which the New Testament was written, which is part of God’s **Handbook For Life**, the Holy Bible, we have different words for “*love*”.

“*Eros*” the root word for “*eroticism*” which is love of a sexual nature is **not** found anywhere in the New Testament.

“*Phileō*” – to be fond of, have tender affection towards.

“*Philanthrōpia*” – human love that does not go beyond giving another person their “*rights*”.

“*Agapé*” – a spontaneous love that is shown irrespective of the “*rights*” or the response of the recipient.

“*Agapé*” is a love that is beyond the natural abilities of a human being.

1 John 4:8 [New Jerusalem Bible] “*Whoever fails to love does not know God because God is Love.*”

Here we have true love, Godly love and the word used is “*agapé*”.

We don’t know this true love if we do not know God.

The word translated “*know*” is also used to convey the intimate physical union between a man and a woman in marriage.

This true love then can only be learnt through an intimate relationship with our Creator God.

How does this happen?

John 14:15-18 [NIV] “*If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Counsellor** to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. **But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.** I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*”

We have the three persons of the Triune Godhead involved in this relationship, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The totality of the God of The Bible.

We also have three steps towards this intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit [God].

“*Know*” – aware of, not an intimate relationship.

“*Live with you*” – a closer relationship but not yet intimate.

“*Will be in you*” – an intimate relationship.

Such an intimate **physical** relationship between a husband and wife, can produce a new being.

The fruits of this intimate **spiritual** relationship will be a new created spiritual being.

Galatians 5:22-23 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

The first and foremost fruit is love [“*agapé*” love].

1 John 4:19 [NIV] *“We love because he first loved us.”*

Both words translated “*love*” in this scripture are “*agapé*” – true Godly love.