

LOVE DEFINED

The Most Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 13:4

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails..

Open:

- What are some of the many ways you used the word “Love”?

Start Thinking?

- Do you think about the action of Love rather than the feeling of Love?
 - Read **Mark 12:28-31**.
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MORE WORDS ON LOVE

Hebrew words for love

Hesed – lovingkindness. This is arguably the most significant word for love in the Bible. Translated as lovingkindness because no Greek or English word has a 1:1 equivalence. Loyalty, patience, mercy, grace, forgiveness, covenantal faithfulness, and salvation (among others) are all concepts tied up with God’s lovingkindness.

Ahab – to love. No special significance.

Dod – romantic love. Used throughout Song of Solomon.

Greek words for love

Eros – sexual or romantic love. Probably the most well-known word for love, but it not used in the New Testament manuscripts. It may have been used in the Septuagint translations of the Old Testament.

Phileo – fraternal or friendly love. The love that you would show a brother or a friend who is closer than a brother. God loves the Son ([John 5:20](#)) and us ([John 16:27](#)) with phileo love.

Agape – self-sacrificial love. Of obvious importance in the New Testament. This word connotes a conscious action rather than an emotional feeling. Common in the New Testament but rare in other Greco-Roman works, it describes the love God has ([1 John 4:8](#)) and shows his Son ([John 17:26](#)) and Christians ([John 14:21](#)). It is also used in describing God’s love for the entire human race ([Romans 5:8](#)).

Storge – familial love.