



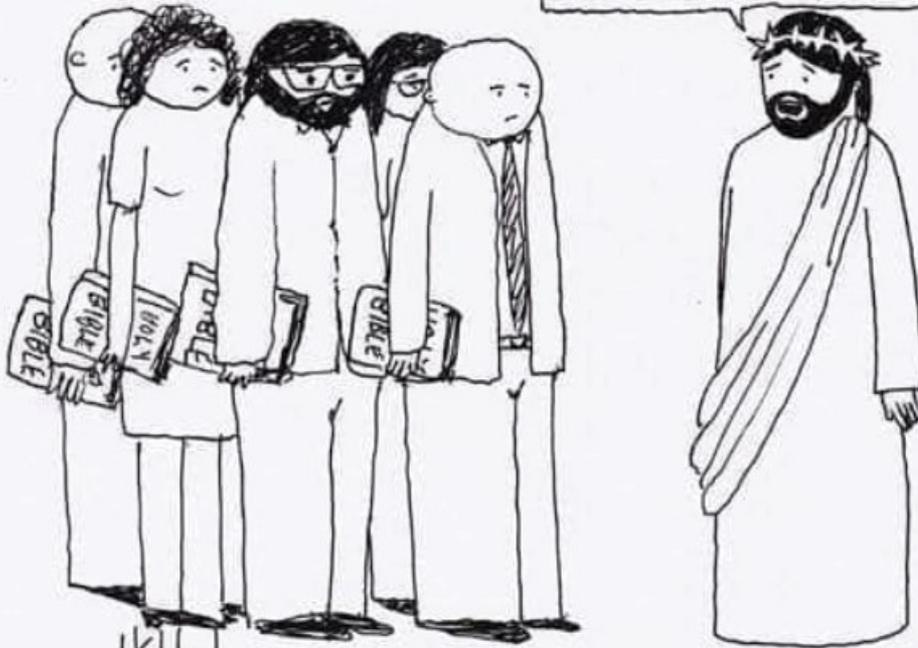
Nurture the
Capacity to Love

All Christian thinkers agree that love is the central focus of Christian faith in God. The double love commandment proclaimed by Jesus according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke has been deeply engrained in Christian belief and praxis:

‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Matt. 22.37–9; cf. Mark 12.29–31; Luke 10.27–8)

Love is Central

The difference between me and you is you use scripture to determine what love means and I use love to determine what scripture means.



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- Eros (*AIR-ohs*) is the Greek word for sensual or romantic love. The term originated from the mythological Greek god of love, sexual desire, physical attraction, and physical love.
- Storge (*STOR-jay*) is a term for love in the Bible that you may not be familiar with. This Greek word describes family love, the affectionate bond that develops naturally between parents and children, and brothers and sisters.
- Philia (*FILL-ee-uh*) is the type of intimate love in the Bible that most Christians practice toward each other. This Greek term describes the powerful emotional bond seen in deep friendships.
- Agape (*Uh-GAH-pay*) is the highest of the four types of love in the Bible. This term defines God's immeasurable, incomparable love for humankind. It is the divine love that comes from God. Agape love is perfect, unconditional, sacrificial, and pure.
- *Philautia* (fill-AW'-tee-uh) is self-love, which can be healthy or unhealthy. Unhealthy self-love is akin to hubris or narcissism. This form of love may be considered what exists when you are good to yourself, but also self-obsessed and focused on personal fame and fortune.

Greek definitions of Love



Where do you see examples that Plymouth Church is nurturing the capacity to love?

Are there other things that we could do?
