

LOVE

I want to express this characteristic in the term benevolence. You see how, in the passage Matthew 6:25-33 the Lord has good intentions even for the sinner. God has good intentions for everyone. He is benevolent. He gives the rain to the just and the unjust. The bad guys get the blessings of the sunrise and the rain. All of the benevolence of God is for everybody, every creature. He does not give evil. Even to the evil He gives good.

Love also goes beyond God's giving good gifts. It includes sacrifice for the benefit of the other. *Agape* (love) is a unilateral sacrificial giving for another's welfare (see Chart Love). There is a cost for the lover and benefit for the object of that love. *Agape* differs from *phileo* by the element of sacrifice. *Phileo* has mutual benefit, a giving and getting, but *agape* has only the giving for the lover and a getting for the one being loved. *Eros* has both a giving and a getting by the lover. It differs from *phileo* by its lack of mutuality.

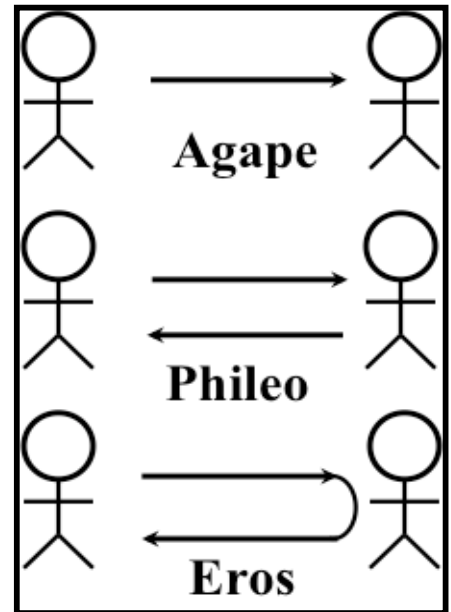


Chart Love