



Written by
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“The Four Loves That Shape Our Lives”

Scriptures:

Overall Scripture: 1 John 4:11

Specific Skit Scriptures:

“Be Like Little Children”: 1 John 3:18

“The Salt of the Earth”: Matthew 5:13

“The Power of Agape Love”: 1 John 4:7, 8

“The Love Connection”: 1 Corinthians 13:13

Dramatic Category: "Collected Skits On A Theme"

What are "Collected Skits On A Theme"?

"Collected Skits On A Theme" are a group of skits that fit together to make a thematic statement. Each of these collected skits begins with a narrative designed to tie together these skits with segues that bring each skit into the narrative. Each of these skits can also stand alone, but together they combine into one storyline lasting 30-45 minutes. Different casts can perform different skits, or one ensemble cast can perform all of them. These skits set up the pastor for a sermon on the central topic of the skits.

NOTE:

In this “Collected Skits On A Theme,” four "Skits" are presented either back-to-back or in sequential weeks. Each one presents a deeper look at "The Four Loves": "Eros," “Storge,” “Phileo,” and God's “Agape” love. The four Skits are:

1. “Be Like Little Children” (script #S1)
2. “The Salt of the Earth” (script #S2)
3. “The Power of Agape Love” (script #S3)
4. "The Love Connection" (script #S4)

Topic: Four kinds of love that govern our lives

Performance Time: 1 hour

Number of Players: 8 players (*4 men and 4 women*)

(or between 16–32 players, if you use a new cast for each skit)

Objective:

These "Collected Skits On A Theme" are on the theme of "The Four loves" that govern our lives: Eros, that ignites our passions; Phileo, that urges us to develop like-minded loyalties; Storge, that cements our family relationships, and God's Agape love, that provides the "light and salt" attitudes and behaviors which keep our three earthly relationships (Eros, Phileo, and Storge) from spoiling.

Synopsis:

This four-skit "Collected Skits On A Theme" presents an extensive look at "The Four Loves" that govern our motivations, based on both scriptural definitions and the enlightening work of the author, C.S. Lewis in his book, *The Four Loves*.

"Be Like Little Children" opens this series of skits by introducing seven children (portrayed by adults or real children) who learn that God's love is different from any of the loves we have in our lives.

These children grow up and become older youth in the skit entitled, "The 'Salt of the Earth'" in which these same seven youth learn how different "Eros," "Phileo," and "Storge" love are from each other and how much "Agape" love is needed to keep them from spoiling.

We join the same cast as they become senior citizens in "The Power of 'Agape' Love" and watch them as they turn "Agape" love into action by helping each other solve their problems.

Finally, in "The Love Connection" we enjoy a game show spoof as women who are vying to be the "dream date" of Dan O'Malley personify each of the four loves.

Short "sermonettes" are found at the back of this script to explain, in greater detail, the nature of these four loves. You are welcome to distribute these notes to your congregation and embellish them to meet your needs. It is the voice of the preacher that ties these skits together; there is no "narrative" out of which all of these skits spring.

SERMON NOTE:

Four "Skits" are presented either back-to-back or in sequential weeks. It is up to the choice of the pastor, or director. Each one presents a deeper look at "The Four Loves." The same cast presents all four skits in soap-opera style.

Three "sermonettes" are outlined as suggested content for the pastor's comments, which serve as segues between scripts. These sermonettes can be used to expound on the nature of each one of the loves separately, or tie all four skits together at the conclusion of the show.

The content of these "Collected Skits On A Theme" comes largely from the book of 1John and from a book by C.S. Lewis entitled, *The Four Loves*, (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, New York, 1960.) For greater insight on this topic, or for sermon preparation on the critical role of "Agape" in our love relationships, please consult this text. It can be purchased at any major bookstore, as well as at the "Into The Wardrobe" website:

<http://www.cslewis.drzeus.net>, a website dedicated to the works of C.S. Lewis.

NOTE: “The Four Loves” Drawing (located at the end of the script)

A drawing that summarizes “The Four Loves,” has been creatively created for this script. The characters are reading their “Agape” script to the world; but how can their voices reach the “ends of the earth,” if they cannot even reach their family in the front row? If they can carry past the front row, then their voices will be loud enough to keep their “Phileo” bonds focused on God’s agenda, and keep their “Eros” passions in check.

As a purchaser of this script, you have permission to copy this drawing for the purposes of illustrating the concepts of this “Collected Skits On A Theme.”

The Cast:

NOTE:

The seven players perform in all four skits. Their specific “character roles” change in each skit. In all skits, **except** “The Love Connection,” they retain their same names, but they serve a different function. In “The Love Connection,” they portray different people altogether, and shed they normal “player” names. In the first three skits, the players’ ages change from children in “Become Like Little Children,” to older youth in “The Salt of the Earth,” and finally, seniors in “The Power of Agape Love.” Refer to the “Cast Roles Chart,” below, for the specific character changes in each skit. You will find character descriptions for each of the characters at the beginning of each skit’s script.

Cast Roles Chart

Player Name	“Become Like Little Children”	“The Salt of The Earth”	“The Power of Agape Love”	“The Love Connection”
Ken	The Sunday school teacher	The Sunday school teacher	Remembered only by his picture	Jack, the game show host
Andy	Little boy who has a crush on Jan	Engaged to Jan	Celebrating 50th anniversary with Jan	Dan O'Malley, the “nerdy” contestant
Jan	A little girl pursued by Andy	Engaged to Andy	Celebrating 50th anniversary with Andy	“Agape” love
Jennifer	Michelle’s sister	Michelle’s sister	Michelle’s sister	“Eros” love
Michelle	Jennifer's sister	Jennifer's sister	Jennifer's sister	“Phileo” love
Lisa	A controlling choir member	A member of the “youth band” with band jacket	She wears a choir pin on her dress.	“Storge” love
Bobby	A choir member	A member of the “youth band” with band jacket	He wears a choir pin on his tie.	A stagehand
Mike	A wise-cracking choir member	A member of the “youth band” with band jacket	He wears a choir pin on his tie.	A stagehand

Props:

For "Be Like Little Children"

A flower for Andy to give to Jan

A Bible with Ken's "cheat script" inside (a reduction of the script)

For "The Salt of the Earth"

A chef's hat for Ken

A Bible with Ken's "cheat script" inside (a reduction of the script)

Use **real steak, chicken, and fish** and spices for an unforgettable lesson!

For "The Power of Agape Love"

A large picture of Ken, their beloved Sunday school teacher from their childhood days

A Bible with Ken's "cheat script" inside (a reduction of the script)

For "The Love Connection"

Four glittery signs that read: "AGAPE," "EROS," "STORGE," and "PHILEO"

A divider so Dan cannot see the girls

2 "APPLAUSE" signs

2 "LAUGH" signs

A Bible for Agape

A 5x7 colored index card

Costumes:

For "Be Like Little Children"

Dress the players as children.

Identify the kids' choir members (Bobby, Lisa, and Mike) with a badge, scarf, or sash.

The sisters should have matching dresses, if possible.

NOTE:

Do not dress the adults in "goofy" kid outfits; portray contemporary kids.

For "The Salt of the Earth"

Identify the youth band members (Bobby, Lisa, and Mike) with "cool" jackets, etc.

Dress the youth players in youth attire (use acceptable current trends)

Dress the teacher in casual attire

For "The Power of Agape Love"

Identify the adult choir members (Bobby, Lisa, and Mike) with choir pins.

Dress the players in senior citizen attire

For "The Love Connection"

Make these costumes indicative of the kind of love portrayed:

"Agape" wears a comfortable, non-flashy, casual outfit

"Storge" wears a bathrobe, slippers and her hair in curlers

"Phileo" wears some type of team logo, hat, banner, showing affiliation

"Eros" is gorgeous; beautifully dressed in jewels and fancy things

Dress Dan with dark, nerdy glasses, trousers at waist height, etc.

Dress stagehands alike (in black)

Sound:

Wireless mics for contestants and Host
A game show “buzzer” sound effect

Music:

Game show music
Instrumental version of “There’s No Place Like Home”
A “high school fight song”
“Romantic” instrumental music

Stage Arrangement:

(Each stage arrangement is different. Have the stagehands (dressed in black) reset the stage for the next scene while the pastor presents the sermonette and introduces the next skit. See each skit for staging notes.)

“Be Like Little Children”

Synopsis:

In this first skit, of four, we meet the young Sunday school class. They are children, and their teacher, Ken Jones, introduces them to the kind of love God gave us to make our relationships on this earth work: “Agape” love. He briefly identifies “The Four Loves.” In the class, are examples of the three "earthly loves": a flirting couple, foreshadowing “Eros” (romantic love); a set of sisters, showing an example of “Storge” (family love); and a trio of children’s choir members, showing an example of “Phileo” (brotherly love united by a cause.) Ken does his best to communicate the simplicity of God’s love, “Agape,” (an act of kindness in the other person’s best interest,) as a “verb,” something we “do” rather than something we merely “say.”

Cast:

Ken: *The Sunday school teacher*
Jan: *A little girl pursued by Andy*
Andy: *A little boy who has a mad crush on Jan*
Michelle: *Jennifer's sister*
Jennifer: *Michelle's sister*
Mike: *A wisecracking choir member identified by a choir sash or badge*
Lisa: *A choir member, with the same identifier as Mike, who tries to control Mike*
Bobby: *A choir member, wearing the same identifier as the others*

Staging Arrangement:

Have the children enter from the audience when Ken calls the children up for Sunday school. He presents the lesson in the center of 2 rows of chairs that face out to the audience.
(See the diagram below)

	Andy		
	Michelle	Teacher	Bobby
Jennifer			Mike
Jan			Lisa

The Script:

(The children enter very excited about Sunday school. Relationships are established as Ken calls them up from the audience. The children are all talking with the people as they enter the sanctuary, as though the audience members were kids on a playground.)

Ken:

(Entering, carrying books and setting up the chairs. He checks his watch and looks out into the audience.)

Children, children, it's time for Sunday school.
Playtime is over.
(He gets little response.)

Jan, Andy, come on up!

Jan:

(squealing) Stop it, Andy!
Teacher, he pulled my hair!

(She starts charging up the center aisle with Andy close behind her.)

Andy:

I did not!

(They arrive on stage only to be held apart by Ken. Jan and Andy adlib teasing each other; Jan wants to sit as far away from Andy as possible. Ken makes peace.)

(Andy continues to scoot toward Jan.)

(Michelle and Jennifer walk up the side aisle.)

Jennifer:

(remembering a family vacation)
I don't like camping. I hate getting dirty!

Michelle:

Dirt is good for you; that's what Dad always says.
(remembering a camping trip)

Ken:

Hello girls; have a seat; we'll get started.

Jan:

Sit by me, please!
(She glares at Andy, who moves back.)

What about the choir? Don't we have to wait for them?

Andy:

Here they come!

(Lisa, Bobby, and Mike enter down the opposite side from Michelle and Jennifer's entrance; so the entire audience gets an "up close" feel as the characters enter. They are practicing some children's song that has a harmony or is sung in a round, as they enter. Lisa is trying to help the boys "get it right.")

Lisa: No, no, no!
You guys don't come in there; that's the girl's part.
Let's try it again.

Ken: *(once they have arrived and are seated)* You sound fantastic!

Lisa, Mike, & Bobby: Thanks.

Mike: *(to the other children)* I'll bet you guys wish you were in the choir like we are, huh?

Bobby: There's no more room in the choir.
It's full; too bad for you.
We're better!

Ken: *(seeing that Bobby hurt some feelings)* Bobby!
Just because you are in the choir, doesn't mean you are better!

Mike: It just means we're cool, and you're not!
(The choir members laugh and the others glare.)

Ken: Hold it right there;
you've hit on exactly what I want to talk to you about today.

Lisa, Mike, and Bobby: The choir?

Ken: No, not the choir: Love.

(The children pick up on the joke of calling one another, "Love," and they begin to greet each other that way.)

Ken: Okay, okay!
Who can tell me what the word, "love," means?

Jan: *(standing as though it were a spelling bee)* Love means
that you like something or somebody a whole lot: Love.
(She sits.)

Andy: I love Jan.

Jan: Oh please!

Lisa: Love means that you will do something for somebody else.

Bobby: Love means you'll share your stuff!

Mike: I love my dog.

Michelle & Jennifer: I love my sister. *(they hug)*

Lisa: Don't you guys ever fight?

Michelle & Jennifer: *(answering in unison)*
Michelle answers: "No," Jennifer answers: "Yes,"

Michelle: *(to Jennifer)* We do not!

Jennifer: *(to Michelle)* We do to!

(They begin to argue.)

Ken: *(stopping the conflict)* Okay, okay.
Stop it!
We're talking about love not war!

(reestablishing order)
You've said some very good things about love.
I've heard you say, Jan, that love means you like someone a whole lot.
And, Lisa, we do thing for the people we love.
Bobby, you are right, too.
We share our stuff with the people we love.

Mike: *(interrupting)* And we love our dogs; don't forget the dogs.

Ken: Yes, Mike, we love our dogs.

Jan: So, we're all right.

Ken: Yes you are, but I'm going to tell you today what God's love is like.
We even have a special name for God's love; it's called "Agape."

Mike: Isn't that a tiny fish?

Lisa: *(trying to hush the "funny boy")* That's "a guppy,"
now stop it and pay attention.

Mike: *(mischievously)* Sorry.

Ken: (*to Lisa*) Thank you.
You're going to be in charge of Mike for the rest of this class time.

Lisa: (*lording it over Mike*) I'm in charge of you.

Mike: (*defiantly*) Dream on!

Ken: Can we go on now?

(*The children nod in agreement.*)

“Agape” love is a love that comes from Heaven.
God puts it in our hearts when we become Christians.

Michelle: What about people who aren't Christians?
Don't they love each other?

Ken: Sure they do.

Jennifer: So, what kind of love do they have?

Ken: They have very good kinds of love.

Andy: What kinds?

Ken: Well, they have “Storge” love;
that's family love like Michelle and Jennifer have for each other.

(*He moves to where Jennifer and Michelle are seated beside each other and puts his hands on their shoulders. The two girls put their heads together.*)

They also have “Eros” love that moms and dads
and boyfriends and girlfriends have for each other.

Andy: (*leaning over to Jan*) I Eros you.

Jan: (*reacting in disgust.*) You do not!

Ken: (*moving over to where Mike, Lisa, and Bobby are seated*)
An then there's “Phileo” love that people who are part of the same group
or club have for each other, like you choir members.

Mike: (*making a face at Ken and motioning to Lisa*)
I don't “love” her?

Lisa: (*snippy*) You have to; I'm in charge of you.

Jennifer: Don't Christians have all those kinds of love, too?

Ken: Yes, God gave us all those loves to make our families and our friendships work, but He only gave His special kind of heavenly love, called "Agape," to Christians who love Him.

Kids: *(appearing to be quite puzzled)*

Ken: Let me explain it this way, "Agape" love is more like a "verb" than it is a noun.

Kids: *(chattering among themselves)* What? What's a noun? etc...

Ken: Let me explain what I mean.

Michelle: What's a verb?

Andy: If I could sit by Jan, I could "get this."
(He starts to get up and move over to Jan.)

Ken: *(stopping Andy and returning him to his seat)*
No, you stay right here.

(He sits him back down.)

Jan: *(relieved)* Thanks.

Ken: Let's start with the basics. Who can tell me what a noun is?

Kids: *(in unison)* A person, place, or thing.

Ken: Very good; now, what is a verb?

Mike: *(to Lisa)* Is this an English class?

Lisa: *(sternly)* Don't talk!

Bobby: *(answering Ken)* A verb is an action word.

(all the kids looks at him.)

Well, it is; it's a word like "stare."

(He stares back at them.)

Ken: You're right, Bobby, a verb is an action word, like run, hug, sing.
"Agape" love is more like a verb than it is a noun.
When we love each other like God loves us,
we are constantly doing things for each other.
We don't just talk about our love;
we show our love...everyday, all the time.

(Ken open his Bible to 1 John 3:18)

Listen, this is what God's word says about "Agape" love:
"Little children, let us not love with words but in deed and truth."
Who can tell me what that means?

Bobby: It means we should not just talk about love, but we should...

Mike: *(interrupting Bobby and finishing his sentence)* Do it.

Bobby: *(looking wounded)* I was going to say that.

Lisa: Michael!

Mike: *(to Lisa)* You're not the boss of me!

(Lisa folds crosses her arms and sits with her back to Mike as though she were not speaking to him now.)

Ken: *(moves over to where Lisa and Mike are sitting)*

You're right, Bobby.
We should "do" kind things for each other
and not just talk about doing nice things.
For example:
(He puts one hand on Mike's shoulder and the other on Lisa's)

When we are upset with each other
we should talk about it and apologize.
We should not stay mad.

Mike: *(sheepishly)* I'm sorry.
I should have let Bobby finish.

Lisa: I guess I can get bossy.

Mike: *(eagerly)* I'll say!

Ken: *(quick to rescue the moment and return the attention back to the lesson)*
As I was saying, people who show "Agape" love
do and say the kinds of things that God would do and say
in any situation. That's what the Bible tells us.

All right, here's your homework.

Mike: This isn't real school; it's Sunday school.
It's supposed to be more fun.

Lisa: *(gently smiling at him with her teeth bared)*

Ken: This will be fun.
God's love is always perfect.
Here's your assignment:
Do something nice for someone this week
and show them that you love them.

Jennifer: I'm going to love everybody that loves me.

Ken: Try showing love to those who you don't like.
It's easy to love those who love you.
Try loving an enemy.

Kids: *(shocked)* That's hard! etc....

Ken: Yes, but God's love is different!

Bobby: I'm going to love everybody I know.

Ken: Try doing something nice for some people you don't know.

Kids: *(shocked)* That's hard! etc....

Ken: Yes, but God's love is different!

Michelle: I'm going to share some of my extra stuff with my friends.

Ken: Try sharing some of your favorite stuff with your friends.

Kids: *(shocked)* That's hard! etc...

Ken: Yes, but God's love is different!

Mike: I'm going to show love whenever I feel like it.

Ken: Try showing love when you don't feel like it.

Kids: *(shocked)* That's hard! etc...

Ken: Yes, but ...
(The children join him this time in finishing the sentence)

All: God's love is different!

Ken: Try to understand that God's "Agape" love expects more and gives more
than any ordinary type of love.
Ask God to help you this week as you practice it, okay?
It's "Agape" love that makes Christians stand out!

Kids: We'll try.

Ken: God will help you!
He works inside you, so ask for His help.

Kids: *(small talk as they exit.)* Okay, bye, etc.

(The stage clears except for Jan and Andy. Jan is fumbling with her shoelace, finally she ties it.)

Andy: *(shyly)* Jan.

Jen: What, Andy?

Andy: Did you hear what Mr. Jones said about how we should do nice things for people when we love them in God's way with that agaaaep....ageeee...*(He can't say the word.)*

Jen: Agape.

Andy: Right, Agape love.

Jan: Yes, I heard what he said.

Andy: *(revealing the flower he has behind his back)*
Well, here it is.
I picked it just for you!

Jan: *(touched)* Really, thanks.
That's very sweet of you.

Andy: Do you love me now?

Jen: *(repulsed at the thought)* No!

Andy: But, you have to!

Jan: I do not!
(She exits in a huff.)

Andy: But Mr. Jones said you're supposed to love people even when you don't feel like it, so you have to love me.
(He takes off, chasing after Jan.)
Jan....Jan, come here!

The End of "Be Like Little Children"

Sermonette 1

(Reset the stage for the next skit during this sermonette.)

“God Is Light”

"And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you; that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all." (1 John 1: 5)

NOTE:

Present this message as is, or modified, as an explanation of God's love after skit 1, "Be Like Little Children." Then, transition into skit 2, either immediately, or the following week, as the next installment in our understanding of "The Four Loves."

I. Man's Fascination With The Power of Love

- A. The obsession?
 - 1. Significance: All that man really wants from cradle to grave.
 - a. “Sold” in commercials? Hair, food, clothes.
 - b. A baby's cry says, "Meet my needs," "Show me I matter to you."
 - 2. Love is the most self-gratifying emotion under the sun.
 - a. "I love You" (Of course you do! What excellent taste!)
 - b. Out of gratitude for being loved: we hang out with these people.
- B. His confusion?
 - 1. “I love this...” Cottage cheese, my jeans, my dog, and my husband.
 - 2. The Greeks had four words for love to clear up their confusion:
 - a. "Storge" family love
 - b. "Phileo" friendship love
 - c. "Eros" passionate desire
 - d. "Agape" unconditional commitment

II. The Nature of Love

- A. Man is in the dark. He thinks love is a feeling. It is not!
(If you wait for feelings to hit you before you act, you'll wait forever!)
- B. Love, defined:

Christian-Hebrew Definition	Modern Definition
Love is a way of acting. It may bring a feeling as well, but with or without feeling, if one acted in the other's best interest, he was said to "love" the other. Love is an act of the will.	Love is a way of feeling. Action is supposed to flow naturally from the feeling. Without the feeling, the act is mere hypocrisy. When the feeling dries up, love has died.

- C. But, God sheds His light on the true nature of love.
 - 1. **(1 John 2: 9-11)**
 - a. No cause for stumbling in his relationships
 - b. "To stumble" is to fall into a preset trap
 - c. Human emotions contain traps; no matter how sweet it may seem; it has a deadly side to it.

2. **(John 12: 35, 36)**
 - a. Christ is the ultimate in giving; He gave his life "God so loved, he gave..."
 - b. *"True love is manifested not in our thoughts, however beautiful; not in what we feel, however strong; not in our words, however sweet; but in our deeds in practical, genuine, self-sacrificing activities."* (**Chuck Smith**)
 - c. Agape love is God's sacrificial love. It identifies the Christians.

III. God's Agape Love "Transforms" All of Our Earthly Relationships, Which Are Built On Emotion

- A. **(1 Corinthians 13: 1-7)** Love's character
- B. **(Philippians 2: 3-5)** Considers other's needs first
- C. **(1 John 3: 16-18)** Self-sacrificing actions

IV. A Knowledge of God Brings A Knowledge of Agape Love

- A. **(1 John 4: 8)** The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- B. **(Rom. 12: 2, 3)** We cannot "*conform*" to the world's definition of love if we have been "*transformed*" by the renewing of our minds, through faith.
- C. Critical concepts:
 1. The MIND'S renewal; make new again, start over
 2. Substitute your WILL with the will of God.
- D. **(Galatians 2: 20)** We are new creatures in Christ with a new definition of Love to bring into our relationships.
- E. **(John 10: 10)** Why this new definition of love? So that we might enjoy life more abundantly!

“The Salt of the Earth”

Synopsis:

In this second skit of the four in “The Four loves Series,” we see that the children from skit 1’s Sunday school class have grown up into older youth. The teacher, Ken O’Malley, contrasts God’s “Agape” love with the “Eros” (romantic love) between Jan and Andy, by telling them that God’s love is not dependent on physical beauty. He contrasts “Agape” with the “Storge” (family love) of the sisters, by telling them that God’s love is courteous and peaceable, and finally he encourages the youth band to add “Agape” love to “Phileo” (friendship love) because “Phileo” is the love of “world-changers,” as long as they are committed to a godly cause. He introduces “Agape” as a preservative (salt) that keeps our earthly relationships from spoiling.

Cast:

Ken: *The Sunday school teacher*
Jan: *Engaged to Andy*
Andy: *Engaged to Jan*
Michelle: *Jennifer's sister*
Jennifer: *Michelle's sister*
Mike: *A member of the “youth band” wearing the band jacket*
Lisa: *A band member, wearing the same band jacket*
Bobby: *A band member, wearing the same band jacket*

The Script:

(Jan and Andy enter, holding hands.)

Jan: Don’t you love that stoneware pattern? And, the crystal....have you ever seen anything so delicate?

Andy: *(holding up Jan’s hand)*
Yes, the delicate touch of your ivory skin, my dear.
(He kisses her hand.)

Jan: *(obviously touched)* How sweet; but I’m talking about the treasures we’re going to get.

Andy: *(slyly romantic)* So am I.

Jan: Oh Andy, you’re so romantic. We’re going to be so happy.

(Jan throws her arms around Andy and hugs him.)

(Michelle and Jennifer enter from the opposite side of the stage. Try to have each pair enter from the same side as they entered from in skit 1: “Be Like Little Children.”)

Michelle: How are the lovebirds?

Jennifer: Planning your nest?

Michelle: When are you getting married?

Andy: One month, three weeks, five days, and
(looking at his watch)
four hours.

Jennifer: I wonder if I'll ever get married.

Michelle: Sure you will, and I'll be there to hand you your cane,
so you can make it down the aisle.

Jennifer: *(insulted)* What is that supposed to mean?

Jan: *(coming to Michelle's rescue)* Emphasis on mean.....

Andy: *(taking charge)* Calm down, girls.
You're all going to land a gorgeous guy like me one of these days;
it's just coming to one of you,
(he hugs Jan) sooner than the others.
Be patient, there's got to be another one out there somewhere.

(Jan elbows him.)

(The band members (Lisa, Bobby, and Mike) enter down the center aisle. They wear matching band jackets.)

Bobby: *(to Lisa)* Look, if you're going to sing lead,
you're going to have to put more into it.
You sound pasty.

Lisa: Pasty? What's pasty?

Bobby: Pasty is.... well, it's boring...lifeless.... no sizzle!

Lisa: I sizzle!

Mike: You don't sizzle.

Bobby:
(Pulling his drumsticks out of his back pocket and using them as a microphone, while jumping onto the stage with wild enthusiasm. He sings the first line of some contemporary Christian, youth song.)

That is sizzle!

(All the others applaud Bobby's efforts.)

Michelle: *(to the band)* You guys are famous; did you know that?

Jennifer: Yeah, everybody's talking about you?

Michelle: But we don't see much of you anymore.
I mean...we grew up together and everything, but now you keep pretty much to yourselves.

Mike: I'm sorry.

Bobby: *(glaring at Lisa)*
It's just that some of us need more practice than others.

Lisa: Oh yeah?

Bobby: Yeah!

Mike: Yeah!

(Ken O'Malley, the same Sunday school teacher that appeared in Skit #1, enters just in time to make the peace between Bobby and Lisa.)

Ken: You guys working on a Beatles song?

(They all look puzzled.)

Yeah, yeah, yeah...

Mike: *(getting the joke)* No, just razzing the "sizzle-challenged."

Ken: Your band was great at the junior high study last Thursday night.
Those kids just loved you.

(pause to remember)

You know, it doesn't seem like that long ago that you were all kids,
but now you're in college...off doing your own thing;

(he turns to Jan and Andy) ...getting married and stuff!

Michelle & Jan: *(in unison)* Some are!

Ken: That's my topic for today.

Michelle: Old maids?

Ken: No! Love.

All: *(taking their seats and mumbling something like)*
We know about love; God is love; etc...

Ken: I know, I know,
but do you really understand how God's "Agape" love is different
from the three kinds of "earthly" love?

Jan: God's love is unconditional.

Andy: Sacrificial

Michelle: "Agape" love does what's best for people; no matter how you feel about
them.

Jennifer: Whether you know them or not.

Lisa: *(to Bobby)* Whether you like them or not!

Ken: Excellent! You've really got a grasp on "Agape" love.

Mike: We should; you've been talking about it since we were kids.

Bobby: What do you mean, "earthly loves"?

Ken: There are four kinds of love; did you know that?

All: *(look puzzled)* No....what do you mean....etc.

Ken: *(standing behind Jan and Andy)*
Your kind of love is called "Eros."

Jan: What's "Eros"?

Andy: *(shocked)* You mean you don't know?

Ken: "Eros" is a passionate desire to possess whatever you think is beautiful.

Andy: *(dreamily to Jan)* I Think you're beautiful.

Jan: *(casting a worried glance to Ken)* What do you mean, possess?

Ken: I mean we are attracted to beautiful people and things with our "Eros" love.
It is the strong, romantic love couples feel.

(Andy puts his arm around Jan.)

Or the feeling we get when we finally get that car we've been wanting or *(to Bobby)* the new drum set we've been dreaming about.

(Ken moves over to Michelle and Jennifer. He stands behind them.)

You two, on the other hand, share a love that is called "Storge."

Michelle & Jennifer: "Storge"?

Ken: Yes, "Storge" love is the love shared between family members. It's called the "love of the familiar."

Jennifer: What do you mean?

Ken: "Storge" loves you because you are familiar to it. You've lived together so long that you just sort of assume that you love each other; it's a very nice kind of love, but you don't talk about it much do you?

Jennifer: I guess not.

Ken: *(to Jennifer)* Don't you just assume that Michelle loves you?

Jennifer: Yeah...I do. *(looking at Michelle)* You do, don't you?

Michelle: Of course I do; what kind of a question is that?

Ken: See what I mean!
"Storge" love is seldom talked about;
it's just supposed to be there, so it usually is.
It's not a showy, mushy love like "Eros."

Michelle: *(to Jan and Andy)* They're all mush!

(Ken moves over to where the band is seated.)

Ken: You three share a love called "Phileo."

Mike: *(to Bobby and Lisa)* See, you two share love. There's hope.

Ken: You share a very powerful love.
The most powerful of all three of the earthly loves:
"Phileo" love is called friendship!

Band: *(surprised)* We do? Really? etc.

Ken: Phileo love is a love shared by people who have something in common. You all love music, so you have a “Phileo” bond as musicians.

Jan: Where does “Agape” fit in?

Ken: “Agape” love is really a way of acting once you are in a family, or in a romantic relationship, or in a friendship. It’s also a way of behaving toward people you don’t have a relationship with yet.

Jan: I’m confused?

Andy: How can you love somebody you don’t have a relationship with?

Ken: “Agape” love is more like a bunch of good ideas. It means doing the best thing for people, even when you don’t know them.

Lisa: I’m lost.

Bobby: Of course!

Mike: *(keeping the peace)* Stop it!
(to Ken) Go on; they’re sorry.

Ken: “Agape” love feeds the hungry, clothes those who need clothing; it gives shelter to the poor; it creates jobs; it visits the lonely; it cheers up the sad. It is a very active love, but it does not necessarily have to have a relationship with the people who receive the “Agape” love.

Lisa: *(excited, and pointing to Bobby and Mike)*
So, I don’t have to have “Agape” love for them?

Ken: Oh yes you do!

Lisa: *(defeated)* Just though I’d ask.

Ken: “Agape” love keeps all of our earthly loves from spoiling.

Lisa: Still lost.

(Bobby raises his head to speak, but Lisa holds up her hand as if to say, “Don’t even think about talking.” Bobby is silenced.)

Ken: What keeps our food from spoiling, and makes it taste better.

All: *(various responses surrounding “salt.”)* Salt...spices, etc...

Ken: Right! Without salt, our food is bland, almost tasteless. When God gave “Agape” love to Christians, He commanded us to bring flavor into our relationships and make them so “spicy” that the world would want what we have.

Andy: Spicy! I like that. *(Jan elbows him again.)*

Ken: Listen. *(He opens his bible to Matthew 5: 13a)*
(reading) “You are the salt of the earth,
but if the salt has lost its flavor, what good is it?”

Michelle: How do we salt our relationships?

Ken: Think of it this way. We’re all at a barbecue.
(He puts on his chef’s hat.)

Mike: Okay, I’m there.

Bobby: Me, too.

Ken: Each one of these earthly loves, or relationships, is a kind of meat.

Jennifer: Why?

Ken: Just go with me, here.

(Ken steps forward and pantomimes the action as he describes all three kinds of meat and their seasoning, or if you want to make this really memorable, use real meat, and set up a card table as a barbecue. See the “props” note.)

Anyway, first we lay a nice juicy steak on the barbecue.
It represents our “Storge” family love
because there is always a lot at “steak” when it comes to family love.

Michelle: What’s at steak?

Ken: Your self-concept, your view of the world, and your trust in people.
That’s all.

Michelle: That’s huge!

Ken: “Storge” shapes who you are.

Michelle: So, how does it spoil?

(Ken moves from his barbecue stance to a position behind the girls, and places his hands on each of their shoulders.)

Ken: Do you girls ever take each other for granted?

Michelle & Jennifer: *(simultaneously, with different answers)*
Michelle says, “No,” Jennifer says, “Yes.”

(They continue to bicker about it.)

Ken: See, “Storge” love can be pretty hostile.
You’ve heard it said, “Familiarity breeds contempt.”

Jennifer: What?

Ken: Okay, what about this one: “Home is where they have to let you in.”

(He rushes out from behind the girls to the down stage area, back to his barbecue, and pantomimes, or actually, sprinkles seasoning on the steak.)

But, when we sprinkle the qualities of “Agape” love onto “Storge,”
it keeps our family love from spoiling.

(Ken pantomimes taking out another piece of meat: a chicken. He holds it up by its imaginary (or actual) legs.)

Our next meat is chicken.
It represents “Phileo” love because friends are usually “chicken” to go out
and do something by themselves.
“Phileo” is a groupie kind of love.
It feels stronger if other people are doing the same thing,
or wearing the same clothes,
or standing for the same thing.
“Phileo” bonds are strong!

Mike: *(to Lisa and Bobby)* Did you hear that?
“Phileo” bonds are strong!

(Lisa and Bobby glare at him.)

(Ken moves over to stand behind the band.)

Ken: You're probably wondering what could go wrong with "Phileo."

Bobby: Not really.

Ken: "Phileo" can absorb your identity.
You can forget who you are apart from the group,
and if your group is committed to something evil,
you can get sucked right in.
"Phileo" can shut people out, too.

Michelle: See, I told you!

(Ken rushes out from behind the band to the down stage area, back to his barbecue, and pantomimes, or actually, sprinkles seasoning on the chicken.)

Ken: But...when you add "Agape" love to "Phileo" bonds,
you have a human love relationship that will not spoil.

Our last meat is fish!

(All the players react with disgust when Ken lifts up the two fish, complete with heads and tails, either in pantomime or in actuality.)

Fish represents "Eros."

All: Why? What's the connection? etc.

Ken: Because something "fishy" is always going on in "Eros" relationships.

Andy: Hey! What's that supposed to mean?

Ken: Eros stirs up our passions.
We want something or somebody
because we think that thing or that person will make us "look good"
and make up happy.
That's dangerous;
only God can fill us up,
anyone, or anything, else leaves us empty!

(Ken moves over to Jan and Andy. They look up at him a bit worried.)

Jan: *(depressed)* Don't tell me that "Eros" spoils, too!

Ken: Oh yes!
It spoils quicker than all the others
because it is based on something that fades really fast.

Andy: What?

Ken: Beauty! How would you feel about Jan, if after you are married, you wake up one morning and suddenly she looks awful to you?

Andy: That could never happen!

Jan: Yes it could!
Have you seen my Aunt?

Andy: *(to Ken)* You should see her Aunt!

Jan: It runs in the family.

Andy: Oh no!

(Ken rushes out from behind Jan and Andy to the down stage area, back to his barbecue, and pantomimes sprinkling seasoning on the fish, or he actually does.)

Ken: But, when we add “Agape” qualities to our “Eros” relationships, we have a well-seasoned love that will be a delight for our entire lives.

Jan: Thank goodness.

Ken: *(to Jan)* No, thank God.

Jan: I’m still wondering about this “possess the beautiful” thing. You don’t mean really possess.... like own, do you?
(She casts a worried glance at Andy.)

Ken: “Eros” collects beautiful things as well as people. Many who fall under the spell of “Eros” think they can’t live without a bigger house, a nicer car, a nicer job, or a better relationship.

Jan: *(casting a horrified glance to Andy)* A better relationship?

Ken: *(quickly rescuing a bewildered Andy and sprinkling more salt on the fish)* Not when God’s love seasons “Eros”!

(Jan relaxes and takes Andy’s hand. Andy looks relieved.)

Mike: How do we find out about these “Agape” qualities you keep mentioning?

Ken: You study God.
He is pure “Agape” love.
For example: Galatians 5:22 tells you what the “fruit,” or the results of God’s love, accomplishes in our lives.
You know that the “Fruit of the Spirit” is:
love, joy, peace patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

(They all nod in agreement, as though they had been studying this for years.)

(Ken takes a saltshaker with him, either a real saltshaker, or an imaginary one, and stands behind Jan and Andy.)

Ken: What fruit of God’s Spirit needs to fall *(he salts Andy and Jan.)* on “Eros”?

Michelle: Self-control!

Jennifer: Faithfulness!

Andy: *(taking Jan’s hand)* Joy!

(Ken moves over to Michelle and Jennifer and prepares to salt them.)

Ken: What about “Storge”?
What part of God’s love does it need?

Lisa: Patience.

Mike: Kindness.

Bobby: Gentleness.

(Ken moves over to Lisa, Bobby, and Mike and prepares to salt them.)

Ken: And “Phileo”?

Jan: Goodness?

Ken: Yes!
If a “Phileo” bond rallies around an evil cause,
it can create more human pain than any other type of earthly love.
For proof of what happens when “Phileo’s” power goes sour,
just read today’s headlines.

Lisa: I know another fruit.

(Everyone looks at Lisa with expectation. She extends her hand to Bobby. They shake hands.)

Peace!

Ken: You’re right. “Peace on earth.”

All: “Good will toward men”

Lisa:and women.

Mike: This is a lot to remember.

Ken:

Just remember this,
(He opens his Bible again and reads Matthew 5:13)

(reading) “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?”

(to the class)

Salt adds flavor and keeps things from spoiling.
God gave us these three earthly loves to make our lives work,
but only His love can preserve them.

(The class small-talks as they exit, thanking Ken for a great class.)

Andy:

(to the rest of the group) So, are you “Storges” and “Phileos” coming to our “Eros” celebration?

All:

Yes.... what time is the wedding...I wouldn't miss it, etc.

Ken:

(Standing alone on the stage as he watches them leave.)
Love.... it's the “spice of life.”

LIGHTS: BLACK OUT

The End of “The Salt of The Earth”

Sermonette 2

(Reset the stage for the next skit during this sermonette.)

Part I: Passionate Love 'Epithumia,' or 'Eros'

Definition:

A passionate desire to possess the beautiful.

"...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment." (Matthew 22:37, 38)

I. The Strengths and Weaknesses of "Eros" Love

The Power of Eros *	When Eros Goes Sour*
It is "obsessed" with thoughts of him/her Most intense, driving "feeling" of all Gives itself entirely to get the beloved Eager to make promises and conform Most "ego-boosting" of all loves! Causes us to "want" God! Causes us to improve ourselves Loves only because it sees beauty Self-preserving, seeks safety	Consumed with hatred for him/her Disappears when "feeling" leaves Compels involvement, helpless Fickle, insecure, jealous, demanding Plots your destruction if rejected God must meet our requirements Over-emphasize looks and "stuff" Egocentric desire to possess, and own Leaves when the beauty of the object leaves

* Condensed from *The Four Loves* by C.S. Lewis

II. The Objects Of Your Eros Love

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world: the cravings of sinful man, the **lust of the eyes and the boasting of what he has and does**, comes not from the Father, but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever." (1 John 2: 15-17)

- A. God (Abides forever)
- B. Things (Lust of the eyes)
- C. People (Lust of the flesh)
- D. Self (Boastful pride of life)

"Little children, guard yourselves from idols." (1 John 5: 21)

Part II: "Storge" Family Love

Definition:

"A natural affection/devotion for things or people which are familiar to you."

*Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God;
and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.
(1 John 5: 1)*

I. The Strengths and Weaknesses of "Storge Love"

The Power of Storge *	When Storge Goes Sour *
Automatically extended to family members Natural, comfortable, honest emotion Not pretentious, flashy, or exciting Extended to objects: dogs, cars, clothes. Needs to feel like you need him/her Always wants the "best for you" Physically "cares" for you and meets needs Accepts you for who you "really" are	Taken for granted, not maintained Know each other so well, it is easy to hurt Lacks manners of common decency Resents independence of the beloved Becomes possessive, convinces you of need It decides what the "best for you" will be Expects you to adopt "family thinking" "Familiarity breeds contempt"

* Condensed from *The Four Loves* by C.S. Lewis

II. Our Storge Love For Each Other In The "Family of God" (Romans 12: 10)

- A. Contains all the qualities of family living:
 1. Be yourself, natural, expect to be loved....
 2. "Home is where they HAVE to let you in.

- B. The importance of the "Storge" nest
 1. Home is the keepers of the heart, stability, self-concept, first significance
 2. Home and family is what all these challenges are for; and end in itself.
 3. "Home is where they have to let you in."

III. Our Storge Love For God, Our Father; "Abba, Father." (1 John 5: 1)

- A. Daddy: That warm, compassionate, personal love: "He can fix it."
- B. Never take God for granted! (Romans 6: 1)

Part III: "Phileo" Friendship Love

Definition:

"A love of the brotherhood because of a shared, common bond."

You are my friends, if you do what I command you. (John 15: 14)

I. Strengths and Weaknesses of "Phileo" love

The Power of Phileo *	When Phileo Goes Sour *
A conscious, calm, rational choice Not bound to "physical" reactions Strengthens your identity (echo) Greatest agent for positive social change Not a "high maintenance" emotion Goal-oriented, shares, cures loneliness Grows larger as more share its vision	Many live and die without it Must accept "group" mentality Steals or absorbs your identity Can be the greatest threat to society Grows inward and loses its purpose Rebellious, prideful, slanderous Cliques, judgmental, cowardice

* Condensed from *The Four Loves* by C.S. Lewis

II. The Wonderful Gift of Phileo Love!

- A. The conditional, earned privilege of friendship:
"You are my friends, if..." (John 15: 14-17)
- B. The Phileo-Bond = The Church (**Titus 3: 15; John 15: 19; 21: 15-17**)
 - 1. A group called out: "Ekklessia"
 - 2. You are the salt of the earth... Preservative, flavoring... (**Matthew 5: 13**)
 - 3. You are the light of the world... a guide post for change (**Matthew 5: 14, 16**)
- C. What is the key that makes us different: Our Love. (**John 15: 12**)
 The quality of our love is different from the world.
 - 1. We uplift, when we could tear down
 - 2. We reach out, when we could shut out
 - 3. We meet the need, when we could ignore the need

“The Power of Agape Love”

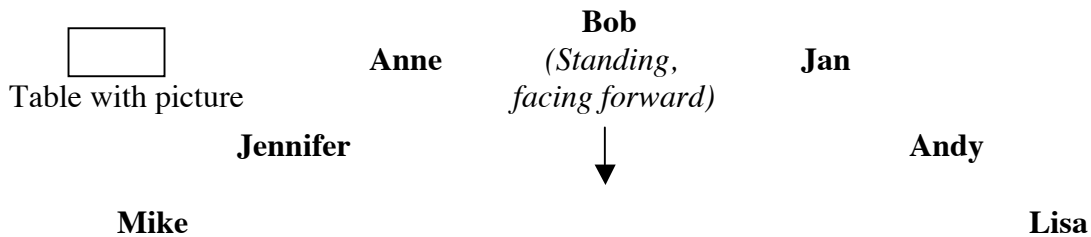
Synopsis:

The first Sunday school class in this series is revisited, 50 years later. The “children” we saw in skit 1 have now had a lifetime to practice their love relationships, and God’s “Agape” love has seasoned them all to perfection. Andy and Jan are now a old married couple; the sisters live together; and, the former band is now the adult choir. Bobby, now Bob, tries to teach the “senior saints” Sunday school class what it means to practice true “Agape” love, but he can hardly get a word in edgewise because the members are constantly chatting with one another about their lives, what’s going wrong, and how they can help each other. Finally, Bob gives up, realizing that these life-long friends are already excellent examples of what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ.

Cast:

Jan: *Celebrating her 50th anniversary with Andy*
Andy: *Celebrating his 50th anniversary with Jan*
Michelle: *Jennifer's sister*
Jennifer: *Michelle's sister*
Mike: *He wears a choir pin on his tie.*
Lisa: *She wears a choir pin on her dress.*
Bobby: *He wears a choir pin on his tie.*

Stage Arrangement: Arrange the stage with chairs, opening to the audience in a semi-circle.



The Script:

(As the stage lights come up, we join this Sunday “Senior Saints” Sunday school class in mid-session. They have their Bibles open on their laps. The class is enjoying a moment of laughter, and their teacher, Bob, tries to settle them down.)

Bob: So as I was saying, in 1 John 4: 7,8 the Apostle John, tells us that “Agape” love identifies the people of God, listen:

(He reads out of his Bible)

“Dear Friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love, does not know God, because God is love.”

You see, because of “Agape love,”
Christian fellowship is deeper than any fellowship the world has to offer.
When we see someone in need...

Jennifer: *(interrupting)* Speaking of need,
Jan, would you let me use that crock-pot of yours for the ladies luncheon
Wednesday?

Lisa: Oh yes! It’s so convenient.

Jan: Of course you can.
Why don’t you both come over and get it this afternoon.
I’ll make some tea, and we’ll have a chat.

Bob: Good... I’m glad that’s settled.
Now, as I was saying,
another mark of “Agape” love is that we actively help each other when...

(Bob tries to get a word in edgewise, as his head turns back and forth from speaker to speaker during the following exchange.)

Anne: *(interrupting Bob and speaking to Jennifer)*
Sister, we can’t pick up the crock-pot this afternoon.

Jennifer: Why not?

Anne: The car would never make it.

(to Jan and Andy)
We’ve had so much trouble with that old car.

Mike: *(to Jennifer)* Why didn’t you tell me you were having trouble with your car?

Anne: Oh, it goes fine in reverse, but we can't seem to get it to go forward. Yesterday, it took us all morning to "back" to the market!

(Jennifer and Anne laugh about that.)

Jennifer: But the horn works!

Anne: Except when you push it.

(Jennifer and Anne laugh about that.)

Andy: *(to Mike)* You can fix that, can't you Mike?

Mike: Sure, just bring it over to my garage.

Jennifer & Anne: We can't.

(everybody laughs)

Mike: Oh, right...you can't "back" through town. I'll come by and take a look.

Jennifer: You're a dear.
We'll make you a nice lunch when you come.

(to Anne) We still have some of that tuna salad, don't we?

Mike: *(disgusted)* Tuna?

Jennifer: *(surprised)* You don't like fish?

Bob: *(trying to recover the "teaching moment")*
All right then, let's go on with our lesson.
We have every indication that Jesus did like fish
because the Bible records many times when Jesus, Himself, cooked fish
and broke bread with His friends.
Hospitality is just one more characteristic of...

Jan: *(interrupting)* I made a spinach quiche.
Andy and I will bring it over, along with the crock-pot.
We'll have a lovely afternoon!

Andy: *(to Jan)* I don't think I should drive.
My eyes have been bothering me.

Mike: *(to Andy)* You should see my optimist.

(They all look at him wondering what he meant.)

Andy: You're what?

Mike: You know...eye doctor.

Jennifer: *(leaning over to correct him)* You mean optometrist.

Mike: Oh, right...optometrist.
I'll pick you up and drive you over there first thing tomorrow.

Jan: *(to Mike)* Oh, that's so sweet of you, Mike.
Are you sure that's not too much trouble.

Mike: No trouble at all.

(Bob begins to clear his throat. He is trying to get everyone's attention so he can finish his lesson.)

Lisa: *(noticing Bob and hushing the others)*
Shhhh! I think we're being rude.

Bob: No...that's okay.

Lisa: I think we've hurt his feelings.
(hushing everyone)

We're sorry.
You're doing just a good a job as Mr. O'Malley ever did.

Jennifer & Anne: *(in unison)* God rest his soul.

(They motion to the picture of Mr. O'Malley on the table.)

(They all apologize, turn their bodies toward Bob, and listen very attentively.)

Bob: No...I just wanted to say that Jesus intended for the quality of our fellowship to be a testimony to a lost world...

Mike: You know, he's right.
I just hired a kid at my garage who's mad at the whole world.
I think he hates everything, except golf.

Andy: Why don't we invite him along with us sometime?

Anne: What about that woman who just moved into number 12?
Do you know she absolutely never comes out?

Jennifer: We should introduce ourselves.

(Ad lib this dialogue: Anne and Jennifer lean out toward Jan and begin discussing the woman who just moved in to their trailer park; meanwhile, Andy and Mike talk about the man at the garage.)

Bob: *(closing his Bible, folding his arms, and smiling at the group, who are lost in conversation with each other)*

I think you learned what “Agape” love is all about
a long time ago.

Jan: *(looking lovingly at the picture of Mr. O'Malley)*
Yes dear, we did.
Our dear Sunday School teacher, Mr. O'Malley, would be so proud.

(All the actors turn to look at the picture of Mr. O'Malley)

LIGHTS: FADE TO BLACK, THEN UP ON SERMON LIGHTS

Sermonette 4
(Reset the stage for the next skit during this sermonette.)

"Agape" God's Love

Definitions:

"Intelligent goodwill given by one in power out of his abundance." (*classical*)

"God's sacrificial, unconditional love for us that Christians have for each other." (*Christian*)

*“By this the love of God was manifested in us,
that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world
so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God,
but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4: 9-11)*

I. The Power Of Agape Love

AGAPE	Scripture References
A ctive	<i>Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. (1 John 3: 18)</i>
G iving	<i>But whoever has the world's goods and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him (1 John 3: 17)</i> <i>For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son..." (John 3: 16)</i>
A t	<i>And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4: 16)</i>
P ersonal	<i>If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. (1 John 4: 20)</i>
E xpense	<i>We know love by this; that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (1 John 3: 16)</i>

II. The Uniqueness Of Agape Love

- A. A command, not an option: **(1 John 3: 23)**
- B. Identifier of the brethren: **(1 John 4: 7, 8)**
- C. A "fruit of the Spirit" not a "gift." **(Galatians 5: 22)**
 - 1. A fruit is given to all Christians **(Ephesians 4: 16)**
 - 2. A gift is given selectively **(Ephesians 4: 11, 12)**
 - 3.
- D. Confidence before Him: **(1 John 4: 17)**

- E. Casts out all fear: **(1 John 4: 18)**
1. "Storge" has the fear of rejection. "Agape" will not reject.
 2. "Phileo" has the fear of not "measuring up." "Agape" will forgive and reconcile.
 4. "Eros" has the fear of losing beauty. "Agape" gives beauty to object.
- F. We love by His example: "*We love because he first loved us.*" **(1 John 4: 19)**
1. We cannot boast about our love for others, it was planted in us.
 2. We love out of gratitude for his sacrifice, not fear of hell.
- G. The incredible result: **(1 John 5: 13-15)**

III. "The Four Loves" Drawing

- A. "Agape" is our script to the rest of the world
- B. Explanation of the drawing:
 The characters are reading their "Agape" script to the world, but how can their voices reach the "ends of the earth," if they cannot even reach their family in the front row? If they can carry past the front row, then their voices will be loud enough to keep their "Phileo" bonds focused on God's agenda, and keep their "Eros" passions in check.



"The Love Connection"

Synopsis:

This skit is a spoof of a game show in which the regular characters from the previous four skits change into the cast of a game show entitled, "The Love Connection." Each of the four loves is personified by one of the possible dates: "Storge" love looks homey with her hair in curlers; "Phileo" love wears team logos to show her affiliation with groups; "Eros" love is glamour princess decked out for a night on the town; and "Agape" is dressed in white, carrying her Bible. Our contestant, Dan O'Malley, must select one of these lovely ladies. As he interviews them all, similar to the classic television game show, "The Dating Game, he comes to realize that "Agape" is the superior love. Of course he selects her, but she cannot go alone. He must pick an "earthly relationship." She promises to come along with them because, "When Agape is present, all our relationships will be reach God's ideals"!

Cast:

Ken: *The game show host, wearing a suit*
Andy: *The "nerdy" Dan O'Malley*
Jan: *"Agape"*
Michelle: *"Phileo"*
Jennifer: *"Eros"*
Lisa: *"Storge"*
Mike: *A stagehand*
Bobby: *A stagehand*

Stage Arrangement:



Stagehand

(Stagehands on audience level)

Stagehand

The Script:

(The stage is set in the above configuration. Dan is in the audience, ready to come forward on his cue. The sparkling identification signs are in place at the feet of each chair where the contestants will sit when they enter.)

MUSIC: GAME SHOW MUSIC SWELLS, THEN FADES DOWN UNDER

Host: Hello ladies and gentlemen and welcome to another love-filled afternoon here at "The Love Connection"!

I am your host, Jack Lovelace.

Are you ready to meet today's contestant? *(prods audience for a response)*

(APPLAUSE signs are held up by the stagehands)

Very well then, welcome if you will Mr. Dan O'Malley from Cucamonga California.

(APPLAUSE signs are held up by the stagehands)

Hello Dan, and welcome to another "love-connection."

(nudging him) Are you excited about this, Dan? Ha... I'll bet you are.

Tell the audience what you do, Dan.

Dan: I raise earthworms out in California, Jack.

Host: *(embarrassed)* Oh how fascinating.

Is that an interesting line of work for you, Dan?

Dan: Yeah, it's ok. It keeps me busy.

Host: Yeah, I guess once you get hooked, it's ok huh, Dan?

(waiting for a response) Get it? "Hooked?"

(LAUGH signs are held up by the stagehands)

Ok, Dan, How old are you?

Dan: Twenty-four, Jack.

Host: And still haven't found the girl of your dreams huh?

Well, here we go Dan.

Today you are going to be one happy man.

Behind that wall you will hear the voice of your beloved
in just a few short moments.

Now, Dan we're going to ask you to step into our soundproof booth over here while we introduce our four lovely contestants.

(Dan steps into a "soundproof booth" made by the two stagehands, who simply take him to the extreme down stage, right and stand on either side of him. They each lick their forefingers, and stick their (presumably, not actually moist) finger in Jack's ears. Now, he is in the "soundproof booth.")

Host: Ok, here we go ladies and gentlemen,
the moment we've all been waiting for.
Let's meet our lovely ladies.

(Storge enters)

(APPLAUSE signs are held up by the stagehands)

Host: Our first lovely lady is "Storge."
Would you like to say a few words to our audience?

MUSIC: "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME" (UNDERNEATH STORGE'S LINES)

Storge: Thanks, so much Jack, Dear.
It's so nice to see all of you people.
Did you have a good dinner, Jack?
Was it well balanced, and did you eat your vegetables?

Host: *(surprised)* Why... ah... yes, why?

Storge: I just wanted to check.
Someone has to look out for you, you know.
Storge love is like that, Jack.

Host: Yes, yes, I know.

And, next we have "Phileo."
Let's give her a warm welcome.

(Phileo enters)

(APPLAUSE signs are held up by the stagehands)

MUSIC: HIGH SCHOOL FIGHT SONG (UNDERNEATH PHILEO'S LINES)

Phileo: Hi Jack.
It's so good to be here and see all the old gang again.
Why, I was just talking over old times with Erin down in make-up.

Host: Yes, yes well, we really appreciate your coming out all this way.

Phileo: No problem, Jack.
What are friends for?
Why, I'll never forget the good times we used to have when I worked here.

Host: Let's move right on folks, and welcome our next beauty;
and she's quite a looker, I might add!
Let's welcome, Eros.

(Eros enters)

(APPLAUSE signs are held up by the stagehands)

MUSIC: "ROMANTIC" MUSIC (UNDERNEATH EROS' LINES)

Eros: *(breathy)* Hi, Jack, honey.
It's just delicious to be here.
Thanks so much for asking me.
All my friends were just green with envy because I get to be on TV.
I knew I would make it big someday.

Host: *(nervously)* Well, we're just thrilled to have you here.
And now for our final member of tonight's lovely choices we have Agape.
Please welcome her.

(Agape enters)

(APPLAUSE signs are held up by the stagehands)

MUSIC: "AMAZING GRACE" (UNDERNEATH AGAPE'S LINES)

Agape: Hello, Jack.
It's such a blessing to be here on the "Love Connection."
It's so important that we all understand the value of real love
in a world that is so hostile to each other.
Don't you think?

Host: *(surprised)* Yes, indeed.
(to the loves) I would like to thank you all for coming tonight.

And now, it is my privilege to introduce to you
Dan O'Malley from Cucamonga, California.

MUSIC: GAME SHOW MUSIC

(APPLAUSE signs are held up by the stagehands)

(Dan comes out of the soundproof booth and approaches center stage.)

Dan, say “Hello” to our lovely ladies.

Dan: *(shyly)* Hi there.

Storge: Hello, dear.

Phileo: Hi, Dan.

Eros: *(sultry)* Hello, honey.

Agape: Hello, Dan.

Host: Ok, Dan, fire away and ask our girls some questions.

Dan: *(awkwardly)* Ok... ah...
Number one, what's the best thing about you?

Storge: Oh, that's easy, Dan.
You can be yourself around me. I'll love you no matter what happens.

Dan: Why?

Storge: Because we'll spend years and years together!
We'll just kind of get used to each other, Dan.
I'll always be there for you and I'll be sure you eat well.

Dan: Thank you.
Number two, why would you love me?

Phileo: Well, because of all the things we would have in common, Dan.
Why, we'll go skiing and make friends who like to ski.
Then, we'll join the “Citizens For Clean Air”;
we'll meet lots of folks with our same interests there.
Then we'll get involved in our church youth group;
they are really great people,
I know you'll fit right in, and...

Dan: That's great, thanks.
Number three, why should I fall in love with you?

Eros: *(conceited)* If you could see me, Dan,
you'd know the answer to that question.

Dan: Really?

Eros: Yes, most men just want to be seen with me;
my beauty makes them feel beautiful, too;
you know the old saying, Dan. “Birds of a feather flock together.”

Dan: What?

Eros: Value by association, you know.
It's the core value of marketing, Dan.

Dan: Ok, thanks, that's good to know.
Number four, why would you love me?

Agape: No reason.

Dan: What? You mean you wouldn't love me?

Agape: I didn't say that.
I just said that I wouldn't have to have a reason, that's all.

Dan: What do you mean?
Number one would love me because she got used to me;
and number two probably because we had things in common;
and number three...
well, I guess she would only love me if I was beautiful enough for her.
So, what's your reason?

Agape: Just because you're you, Dan.
That's all the reason I need.

Dan: Really... thanks.

(to Jack) I really like that answer.
That was real nice of her huh, she doesn't even know me, and...

Host: *(hurrying him along)* Yes, well...you'd better hurry, Dan.
You have only one minute left to ask questions.

Dan: *(flustered)* Ah...
Number two, what would make you break up with me?

Phileo: If we didn't have anything more in common,
I guess that would be it for us, Dan.
We've got to have a common direction if you wanna' make this thing work.

Dan: What about you, number one, same question.

Storge: If you start taking my love for granted because I'm always around,
or if I feel like you don't need me anymore,
(she begins to sound tearful)
well, then I'll just kind of fade away and die.
I'll always have plenty of advice for you, Dan,
just in case you need it,
but I don't know what I ever did to make you stop caring...
(she breaks down and cries, then blows her nose loudly)

Dan: *(to Jack)* How sad.
Number three, what would cause us to break up?

Eros: Well, Dan, I'm not sure how to break this to you, but...
you'd better not get... well...

Dan: What?

Eros: Ugly.

Dan: Ugly?

Eros: Yes, you see...
If I'm seen with you, you have to be worthy of me.
You have to bring me up in the eyes of others, not down.
I have a fast car, a gorgeous house, and fine clothes.
My life has to stay in harmony.
You understand, don't you?

Dan: *(dejected)* Sure.
Number four, same question: Why would you break up with me?

Agape: No reason.

Dan: What, you mean you'd call it quits for no reason?

Agape: I didn't say that.
I just said that there is no reason why I'd break up with you.

Dan: You mean you wouldn't?

Agape: That's right. I'd stick it out no matter what.

Dan: *(to Jack)* Did you hear that?
She'd stick by me no matter what!

SOUND: LOUD GAME SHOW BUZZER

Host: Okay, that's it, Dan.
We're going to give you just a few moments to make your selection over there in the
sound proof booth while we ask the audience what they think.

(Dan looks horrified and shakes his head. He doesn't want to have wet fingers stuck into his ears again. Jack prods him until he finally steps back into the "soundproof booth" made by the two stagehands.)

(The Host becomes the “Applause Meter” by walking over to the four girls. He simply raises and lowers his arm to indicate applause “levels.”)

Host: Okay, audience. Let's see if your choice matches up with Dan's. Just tell us which one of these women will be the woman of Dan's dreams with your applause.

Is it Number one? (light applause)

Number two? (light applause)

Number three? (little or none)

Number four? (heavy applause)

Number four! Congratulations.

Agape: But Jack, there's something you have to know about me!

Host: *(not listening to Agape)* Okay, let's bring Dan back out of the booth.

(Dan comes out of the booth)

Who's it going to be, Dan?

The audience has already made its choice.

Agape: *(in a loud whisper)* Jack, can I have a word with you?

Host: Later, dear. I'm sure we'll hear from you later.

Agape: But...

Host: Okay, Dan. Who will be your true love?

MUSIC: LOUD GAME SHOW MUSIC

Dan: Number four!

(APPLAUSE signs are held up by the stagehands)

Agape: Oh, my!

(The other loves give a mild applause)

Host: *(very pleased)* While our lovely lady is making her way to this side of the stage, let's hear what lovely prizes our young couple has won tonight.

(reading from a card) First, a baseball fun kit: complete with two tickets to Friday night's game, and binoculars, because your seats are 'way out there!

(APPLAUSE signs are held up by stagehands)

Yes, and that's not all!
We also have 40% off coupons to the Museum of Science and Industry.

(APPLAUSE signs are held up by stagehands)

And just to round out that fun day together,
We have his and hers rollerblades and an all-day pass at the skate park.

(Dan is not very excited)

I know it's a bit much to take in all at once, Dan,
but, when there's two of you to share it...

Hey, what's keeping your lovely lady?

(He goes to look on the other side of the divider)

Are you all right?

Agape: *(motioning for him to come nearer)* I can't go!

Host: What?

Agape: I just can't go, that's all.

Host: Why?
Just a minute ago you said that you'd always love him no matter what,
you didn't even have to have a reason to love him!
Now you're changing your mind?
(clearly exasperated.) Well, you're going to have to tell him yourself.

(She gets up reluctantly as he prods her over to Dan.)

Dan: *(happily)* She's beautiful!
Oh, we're going to have a great time!

Host: Not so fast, Dan.
She has something to tell you.

Agape: *(shyly)* I can't go.

Dan: What? Why not?
I thought you said...

Agape: Yes, all of what I said is true, but I still can't go, at least not by myself.

Dan: I don't understand.

Agape: Oh, this is hard to explain.
You see, my kind of love is not really a feeling.

Dan: Huh?

Host: If I'd known that, we would never have had you on this show!

Agape: My type of love is more of a mental attitude.
You have to understand, Dan,
that life's relationships are ruled by emotions most of the time,
and emotions come from the heart.

Dan: So, what's so bad about that?

Agape: Many times that gets us into trouble because emotions come and go.
That's where I come in.
Agape love is not an emotion,
it's a decision of the mind to do what's right for the other person in any relationship,
no matter who it's with.

Dan: *(sadly)* So, why can't you go?

Agape: Oh, I could go because God's love, that's Agape, is perfect and lacks nothing,
but Agape love was given to us as a gift from God
to make all of our earthly loves perfect.

Host: *(mumbling loudly)* Fine mess we're in now!

Agape: *(to the Host)* Not really.
Dan, why don't you choose another one to love;
then, I can teach you both everything I know,
then your relationship will work out just fine!

Dan: No. I wanted a relationship that would last no matter what;
one that would love me for who I am.

Agape: Dan, any one of these loves will work like that
if I teach both of you how Agape love works;
it's a preservative...like salt;
it'll keep your love from spoiling.

(all the other loves perk up)

Dan: *(suddenly interested)* Forever?

Agape: Forever!
Go ahead; choose an emotion of the heart.
Because, when God's love enters a relationship, your heart won't break!

Dan: *(getting excited)* Okay, I choose number two!

(APPLAUSE signs are held up by stagehands)

Phileo: *(very excited as she bursts out from behind the screen)*
Oh, hi there, Dan.

(She hugs him.)
Oh, we're going to have so much fun together.
I love baseball!
And I'm really interested in science,
and I used to work at the skate park; I know a million people there.
I'll introduce you to all of them!
(taking his arm as he looks overwhelmed.)

Oh, we're going to become great friends.

(She leads Dan off stage arm in arm, but stops short of exiting.)

(to Jack) Can we go now?

Host: *(surprised at the speed of things)* Sure!

Dan: *(turning to agape)* Are you going to tell us what you know?
I really want this to work out.

Agape: I will. Don't worry; if you do what I tell you, things always work out.

Host: *(after the stage clears)* Well, folks, we've had some pretty unusual shows,
but this one beats 'em all.

Tune in again next week
for another love-filled afternoon on everyone's favorite show:
"The Love connection."

MUSIC: GAME SHOW MUSIC SWELLS, THEN FADES

(APPLAUSE signs are held up by stagehands)

The End of The Entire Show