



St. James Presbyterian Church

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SERMON STUDY & DISCUSSION OUTLINE

12.26.2021 – Christmas Story Life Lessons #4 – Real Love is Agape Love

John 3:16, Luke 2:28-38, 1 John 3:16-19

Love is one of the most used and expressed word in any language and dialect. But what does it really mean? Christmas reminds all of humanity Someone was born to show and prove the kid of love that is real and permanent. Agape, sacrificial love Jesus demonstrated from the time he was born, until his death, and to be fulfilled and completed upon his return. The ultimate challenge for us is this: can we ourselves have agape love but not just have it but also do it?

Where does “real/true love” come from?

- *John 3:16 says it all.*
- *Unconditional love. God loved us first. With limitless love, grace and mercy.*
- *Jesus Christ did not wait for us to be perfect first. He came to our life when we were messed up.*
- *Something we cannot humanly practice on a consistent basis. Christ’s love lasts forever. In whatever situation we are in. His love for us is unconditional and stays.*

Lessons from Mary

- *Mary takes an important role and a source of life lessons in the birth of our Savior Jesus.*
- *It was God though who took the first step of choosing her to serve as the human mother to Jesus.*
- *At her young age, dramatically changed by all the events from her Son’s birth to his death, we all have many things to learn and be inspired about.*
- *If there’s one thing to be highlighted, it was her willing and heartfelt spirit to trust and obey God’s plan for her.*
- *As she lived and fulfilled her God-given role as Christ’s human mother, Mary learned and grew what real and true love is: agape love.*
- *This tells us we also could grow into and practice agape love just as she did.*

Agape love and us...

- *God calls us to be faithful in the little but important things in life*
- *Through those, we gradually learn to show agape love for what matters in life*
- *Christlike Agape love is the highest form of love God calls us to do*
- *He prepares us and knows when we are ready for it*

Brothers and sisters in St. James, can we be a church with agape love in 2022?