

**WHAT REALLY COUNTS IN CHRIST - 2**  
**JANUARY 30, 2022**

**GALATIANS 5:2-6 (NIV)**

**REVIEW:**

- Faith working through love is what really counts.
- Faith is being so convinced something is true, that it moves us to action (parachute).
- Faith involves hearing, believing and acting – the primary action of faith being speaking (David).
- Jesus said if we had faith we would say.

**CONTINUE:**

1. Faith works by love (agape).
  - A. Agape is unconditional love that's based on decision and principle, not feelings and emotions. It's deliberate, an act of the will, a choice.
  - B. Agape is how God loves us. He will never love us more or less than he loves us now. We can grieve Him, even insult Him, but we will never diminish His love for us. His love is not based on our performance, or His feelings and emotions. It's a choice or a decision to eternally love us, even if we make our bed in hell.
  - C. Agape is how we are to love one another (**JOHN 15:12-13, ROMANS 5:7-9**). Human performance had nothing to do with it and neither did feelings or emotions. Agape is sacrificial (**1 JOHN 3:11-18**).
2. How can God expect us to love as He loved us?
  - A. **ROMANS 5:5 (AMPC)** When saved, God's love (agape) is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Spirit. God gave us His love to love one another with.
  - B. The importance of love can never be overstated. **1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-8 (TPT)** If love is not my hearts motivation, I'm a nobody making a lot of noise to no profit. God's love is the greatest force in the universe, and it never runs out. It's this love that's to be the motivating force behind all the activity of our lives.
3. Loving our enemies. **MATTHEW 5:43-48 (MSG, TPT)**
  - A. Nothing shows that agape is love based on decision and not feelings or emotions more than what Jesus said about loving our enemies.
    - Jesus prayed for those who crucified Him and for those who had Him crucified.
    - Stephen displayed the same love in **ACTS 7:59-60**.
  - B. The religious leaders taught things that were not scriptural and Jesus called them out. **LEVITICUS 19:18** doesn't say "hate your enemies." That evolved from defining a neighbor as a fellow Jew.
  - C. **LUKE 10:29-37 (NLT)** This man wants Jesus to justify His actions by defining "neighbor". Instead, Jesus masterfully reveals his hypocrisy with a parable. The priest and Levite were Jewish leaders that didn't love their brother enough to help. The despised Samaritan helped by: stopping, approaching, getting down, picking him up, taking him and providing for him.

**CONCLUSION:** Like faith, love is an action word. Agape is based on a decision to love, not on feelings. Loving the agape way is loving God's way. If we want our faith to work, we must love the agape way, for faith works by love!