

**Agape love** is often described as selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional. It is a love that is not based on emotions but is rather a deliberate choice to act in the best interest of others, regardless of their actions or worthiness. Agape love seeks the highest good for the beloved, even at cost to oneself.

What opportunity might you have to put into practice agape?

(vs 13) We know that we live (**meno**) in him and he in us, because he has **given us of his Spirit**.

Enables us to understand the things of God.

Gives us gifts for ministry.

Gives us the strength to faithfully to act upon these things.

"**The Spirit of God is a gentleman**" has been attributed to the evangelist and preacher D.L. Moody.

The idea behind this phrase is that the Holy Spirit respects human free will and does not force Himself upon individuals. Instead, the Spirit prompts, convicts, and guides people towards truth, righteousness, and a deeper relationship with God.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire.

Galatians 6:8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

What opportunity might you have to sow to please the Spirit?

(vs 18) There is **no fear** in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with **punishment**.

In Christ we have been set free from God's judgement, and the penalty of sin which is death. Therefore we have nothing to fear and have been set free to love.

What opportunity might you have to say no to fear?

FINAL THOUGHTS Acts 8:26-35 p. 1,705

*"Running Along Side"*

Philip listens to the Spirit.

He does not fear going to this official. (Rank and Outsider)

He puts the need of the official first. (agape)

## Sermon Notes 04/28/24

FIRST THOUGHTS John 15:4-8 p. 1,677

*"An Invitation to Abide"*

### An Invitation to a Wedding:

Have changed over the years.

Invite to witness, support, and celebrate.

### An Invitation to Abide:

Greek word "μένω" (**meno**) which is often translated as "abide" or "remain". This word carries a rich meaning that goes beyond just physical presence.

"Meno" implies a deep, intimate, and enduring relationship. It suggests staying connected, being rooted. In the context of John 15, where Jesus speaks about abiding in Him as branches in a vine, the word "**meno**" conveys the idea of staying closely connected to Jesus, drawing sustenance and life from Him, and remaining in a state of spiritual union and fellowship with Him.

### An Invitation to Abide:

What it looks like in our lives changes over the years.

Invited to bear much fruit.

Transformation: Growing in one's relationship with God, deepening and becoming more like Christ by displaying the virtues of Christ-like character such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Embodying: Christ like acts of service, compassion, kindness, generosity, justice, and mercy towards others, increasingly becoming who we are.

Abundance: Experiencing more fully the abundant life promised to us by Jesus.

FURTHER THOUGHTS 1 John 4:10-18 p. 1,902

*"Three Ways to Abide"*

Three ways we are invited to participate at the wedding.

Reunion, ceremony, and reception.

Three ways 1John 4:10-18 invites us to abide.

(vs 12) No one has ever seen God; but if we love (**agape**) one another, God lives (**meno**) in us and his love is made complete in us.

*Prayerfully, openly engage in relationships  
through Christ's love."*

### **CONTACT INFO**

**Pastor:** Vern Gauthier

(717) 385-9526 - 1stuppastor@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Elisabeth Gauthier

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-11:30am

(717) 776-7525 - 1stupoffice@gmail.com

**Clerk of Session:** Jim Ellingsworth

(717) 609-3102 – jellingsworth22@gmail.com

**Moderator of Deacons:** Sally Ann McCrea

(717) 385-4734 samccrea@gmail.com

**Church Wi-Fi Password:** 1stupwifi

### **PRAYER LIST**

Dick Den Hartog, Peter White, Teresa Hutcheson, Nancy Diem, Fred Barker, John Nimmon, Heidi Hefflefinger, Nancy Soccio, Arnie Ashwell.

**Dennis Smith** who is in intensive care with pneumonia.  
(by Mike Fry)

**Family of Molly Horton Forsyth** (by Ann Cavanaugh)

**Charles York and Tiffanie R.** ask for God's strength to get both their respective families through difficult times.

(by Neighbors in Christ)

**Rose Comp** who suffered a stroke. (by Tom Hefflefinger)

**The Family of Lana Provazzo** (by Sally Canazaro)

**Prayer Family:** Eric & Terry Bear 717-243-8643

109 Country Rd. Carlisle PA 17015

**Local Church:** St. Matthews Lutheran- Robert Berry

**Presbyterian:** Greencastle-Robert Cook

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Upcoming Events from the Community Life Committee:**  
**Community Garden:** Ask Bob or Rausa Roscinski for more information on how you can help!

**Help wanted** with the Camera for live streaming worship and to help keep up the digital organ library we use during worship. Please speak with Pastor Vern for more info.

**Summer Sermons:** I am looking for June - August sermon ideas. Perhaps a Biblical Text you have wondered about, or a question relating to faith theology. Either email me or write it down and hand it to me. No promises on what I will end up preaching on, but I am interested to see what topics and questions members are interested in hearing about.

Pastor Vern

A reminder that in our age of technology, there are people out there who are trying to take advantage of others by posing as someone they are not. **Be very careful with texts, emails, and calls** supposedly by Pastor Vern or any other of our church members, especially if the person asks for money of any type or more information about our members.

### **Bill Moyer's Memorial Service**

is on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at Green Ridge Village.

The service will take place in Thrush Hall,  
which is located in the Swaim Building.

The ashes of **John and Nancy Dunsmore** were interred in Phillipsburg PA this week by Pastor Vern.

The ashes of **Bob Miller** were interred by his family in West Virginia this week. Please hold both families in prayer.

Zion Lutheran Church is hosting  
the **Four Diamonds Concert** today at 4:00 p.m.