

Fragrances, Study 2

THE DIFFERENT BRANDS OF LOVING PERFUME IN THE CHURCH

37 He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Matthew 22 (NRSV)

Recap

Love is closely associated with *sweet smelling fragrances* (as pictured in the Song of Songs). The church's relationship with God is based on loving intimacy, therefore produces an attractive spiritual fragrance. The very nature of God is love. Everything He does reflects *love*. The Father's love is both spontaneous based on a predetermined decision. As we love, we too become spiritually fragrant.

Now we will see that love has three different types of fragrances and that God deserves the sweetest!

"DO YOU LOVE ME?"

There were four types of love in classic Greek:

- (i) *Affection love* - Greek word = **stergo** (Romans 12:10)
- (ii) *Friendship love* - Greek word = **phileo** (second most common Greek word for love in Scripture).
- (iii) *Erotic love* - Greek word = **eros** (not used in Scripture)
- (iv) *Selfless love* - Greek word = **agape** [ar-gar-pay] (the most common word for love in the New Testament)

1. God deserves _ _ _ _ _ love from us. (Mat. 22:37)
2. But God also expects us to show _ _ _ _ _ love to others as well.
3. This brings _ _ _ _ _ to God (John 13:35)

Note the use of two different forms of the word *love* in Christ's conversation with Peter (Jn. 21:16ff).

He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love (agapé) me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love (phileo) you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

John 21:16

4. The church is made up of people who are often cold-hearted, self-centred, gossips, inwardly immoral and deceptively righteous in appearance- yet God loves them! And He tells us to do the same! God's kind of love is not a reward, it is a _ _ _ _ _ .

We are to *love* not just to *like*. Yet, as we see from John 21:16, liking is sometimes a good place to start to learn how to love.

Obligations

1. How is your love for God? Hot, lukewarm, or cold?
2. How is your love for the church?
3. How is your love for your spouse?

Amen.

Next Study: *The Ingredients To The Best Love Fragrance In The Church*

ANSWER KEYS

1. agapé 2. agapé 3. glory 4. gift