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What Sugar Is To Pie . . .

Teresa Hampton

A lady prepared to bake a blueberry pie, only to discover she had no sugar. So she began to search through her recipes for a pie that required no sugar. She tried apple, cherry, peach, banana, pineapple, chocolate, etc., only to find they all called for sugar. Finally, she came to the conclusion that you just can't make a pie without sugar.

What sugar is to pie, love is to the Christian. Love is the motivation for all we do to please Jesus. No matter how we try to serve Him, if we do so without love, we will leave a "bad taste" with others.

Jesus commands us to love one another, love the brethren, love the lost, and even love our enemies. Some of you may be thinking, 'Do I have to *like* everyone?' If Jesus was talking about 'liking' or having affection for everyone, that might be asking the impossible!

What kind of love is Jesus talking about? The word 'phileo' is used in scripture to describe brotherly love – our city of Philadelphia is called the 'city of brotherly love.' Phileo love is an emotional love or friendship love that has its emotional highs and lows. However, the word Jesus uses is not 'phileo' but the word 'agape.' This word is very often used in scripture to describe a committed love, one that transcends phileo love and all other loves – it is wholly devoted to the good of the other person – it will survive through the likes and dislikes because it is committed! Jesus tells us we should have agape love for all. He would not ask us to do the impossible.

What if marriages and homes were built on agape love? What if Christians were devoted to other Christians with agape love? What if Christians were motivated by agape love to reach the lost?

When agape love fills our souls and is blended thoroughly with daily living, we will leave a good taste behind, and those in the world will see that we've been seasoned with the sweetness of love. What sugar is to pie, love is to the Christian.

Today's verse: *"Love suffers long and is kind . . . bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."* 1 Corinthians 13:4, 7, 8

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