

Questions For God
Lord, How Can I Know Love?

John 21:15-19

How can you truly show what love is? What can you do to help others show what love is? What can I do to show love? Is there any way to explain how you feel in a biblical way about love? How do you learn how to love like Jesus does? All I want is an explanation.

1. By examining the language of Scripture

A. Hebrew “ahab” (217 times)

Genesis 22:2 Abraham and Isaac

Deuteronomy 6:5 “Shema”, love for God

1 Samuel 18:1 David and Jonathan

Song of Solomon 1:4 “ahab” & “dode” (from an unused root meaning “property”, “to boil”) Solomon and his bride

Malachi 1:2 God and Israel

“cheched” (58 times)

Ruth “favor/kindness”; Ruth/Naomi; Ruth/Boaz

B. Greek “agapao” (143 times)

“phileo” (25 times)

used of hypocrites who “love to stand/pray/sit” (Matthew 6:5)

used of placing family above Jesus in affection (Matthew 10:37)

used of God’s love for the Son (John 5:20)

used of Jesus’ love for Lazarus (John 11:3, 36)

verb form “kiss” of Judas’ betrayal (Matthew 26:48)

2. By a distillation process

A. Love is *tangible, visible* and *volitional* (1 Corinthians 13)

B. Love is a *command, a gift* and *an evidence* (1 John 4:7-21)