

**A MARRAGE WITHOUT REGRETS**

**PROGRAM 16 (#910146)**

**WEEK 4 (910332)**

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## ***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***

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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: A Marriage Without Regrets**

**TITLE: Program 16 – Unconditional Love**

### **MONDAY**

#### **OPEN**

Unconditional love, agape love, is a love that desires another's highest good. It is a love that is focused toward the object of that love. "Love is from God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love." God is agape. He is unconditional, sacrificial, everlasting, ministering love.

#### **PART ONE**

Last Week I told you about four different kinds of love, four Greek words that are used for love. One was "storge", "s-t-o-r-g-e", a natural love or affection. We saw that it's only used in the Bible when it talks about people being unloving, without this natural love or affection. Then there was the word "eros", "e-r-o-s", that erotic kind of love that sensual love, that physical love that just absolutely delights us, turns us on and just makes us think that this is it. That word's not used in the Bible. But I think that kind of love is described in the book of Song of Solomon. And then there's a third

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kind of love. And this is the kind of love that makes marriage an absolute delight. It's the "phileo" kind of love, "p-h-i-l-e-o". That's the love that is called out of a person towards another because there's something so pleasing, so attractive, so admirable about that person, something that you look at and you admire or you delight in or their personality is wonderful to you, or they're just so loving toward you, they draw that kind of love out. And it's a wonderful kind of love. It's a love of friendship. It's a kind of love in a marriage that says, "Hey, my husband and I or my wife and I are best friends." But then all those loves can pass away. All those loves can come and go. But there's one that never, never changes. And that's the one we want to look at. And that's the agape kind of love. A-g-a-p-e. Now the agape kind of love is an unconditional love. When you think of agape kind of love, I want you to think of an unconditional love. I want you to think of a sacrificial love. I want you to think of an unending love. That's agape. And you know that word for love is used about three hundred and twenty times in the New Testament. It's a Greek word and the New Testament is in Greek. It's used to describe God's love used to describe God's love for His Son. Phileo is also, you find a phileo kind of love, used to describe the relationship between the Father and the Son, between God and between Jesus Christ. Agape kind of love, it's a love that we are told that we are to have towards one another. And this is the kind of love, Precious One that holds a marriage together. This is the kind of love that will never turn around and look at you and say, "I'm sorry, I'm walking out. I don't love you any more." This is the love that holds through sickness and health that holds whether you're pretty or ugly, no matter what happens to you. This is a love that is enduring. This is a love that is everlasting. In Jeremiah 31:3, God speaks to Israel. And when you see God speaking to Israel, you have to know that in the book of Ezekiel and in the book of Jeremiah, He says that God's wife is Israel. And you know Israel plays the harlot. Israel goes after many, many lovers. You find God saying to this wife of His that plays the

harlot, that lifts up her skirts to every passerby, “Behold I have loved you with an everlasting love. And with lovingkindness have I drawn you to Myself. I have loved you with an everlasting love.” Wouldn’t those be wonderful words to hear? Wouldn’t that be a wonderful, wonderful love to know and to experience? And isn’t that what you and I so desperately, desperately want? What is the source of this love? Well, this agape kind of love is a word that they had to really coin for the New Testament. I mean, they find it in some Greek writings, but it’s extremely, extremely rare. This is the kind of love that they had to use to describe a love that really has its source in God. In John, chapter 3, verse 16. It says, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.” And remember I told you that agape love is unconditional. And I told you that agape love is sacrificial. Here you see God loving the world. And you know from the Scriptures that the world doesn’t love Him. And that’s very obvious. Just stand any place in any public place and just listen for just a few minutes. And you’ll hear God’s name used in blasphemy. Just stop and talk to people about God and what they think about God and you’ll hear Him demeaned. And you will hear His Son demeaned. You’ll hear His name used in profane ways. So God unconditionally, loved the world and, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten....” So the love that he’s talking about there is a love that is sacrificial. He loved the world that didn’t even know Him, that didn’t even love Him, so much that what He did was, He took His Son and He nailed Him to a cross and took all of the sins, all of the things that make people so wretched and ugly and mean and contrary and full of pride and cheating and stealing and adulterous and perverted and all that, He took all their sin and He loved you and me so much, all my sin, all your sin and He put it on Jesus Christ. And Jesus Christ died for your sin. It’s like He, He didn’t commit the crime, but He was put to death for the crime as your substitute when you committed the crime. That’s the kind of love that holds a marriage together.

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And that's the kind of love that you and I want to look at. And we want to understand in the depths of its being. Because believe me, Precious One, if you will understand this love and if you will cry out to God for this kind of love, then God will give it to you. If you don't have it He'll give it to you. And when He gives it to you, it's a precious treasure and it enables you to love and to meet people's needs. You see, when I stood in the living room of my home, and shook my fist at God and said, "To hell with you God, I'll see you around town. I'm going to find someone to love me." I went from one man to another man to another man. This is before I ever truly became a Christian. I thought I was a Christian. I had a religion but not a relationship. And I went from one man to another man to another man, looking for someone who would love me unconditionally. And the One that loved me unconditionally was the One that I was shaking my fist at, God so loved me that Jesus Christ, paid for my sin and descended into hell. He died and He descended into hell. So when I said, "To hell with You God," that's exactly what he did because He loved me with this kind of love. Now, wouldn't you love it if you knew that your mate loved you that way? That your mate would look at you and say, "I want you to know that no matter what happens to you, I'm totally absolutely completely committed to you. I'll never leave you. I'll never forsake you. I'll never stop loving you. And I'll never stop acting in a loving way toward you." Wouldn't that be wonderful? Wouldn't that be security? This is the kind of love that we all need. Whether we're married or not, this is the kind of love we need. Larry Crabb brings them out in his book, "The Marriage Builder". And I want you to get these two words. This kind of love shows us our significance as a human being. It says, "You have worth. You have value. It's good that you're alive. And as a human being, I want you to know that you're important to me, that you're significant to me, that you have value to me." You know, my husband that I left, and this is my first marriage. Tom, his name was Tom. My husband that I left used to call me and he would say to me, after I divorced him, "I'm

going to kill myself.” You know what I would say to him? Do a good job, so I get you money.” What was I saying to him? I was saying to him, “You know you don’t have any significance. You’re worth is only so many dollars, so many thousands of dollars, that I would get.” In other words, “Take, take your life. Go ahead, take it. I want the money more than I want you.” Isn’t that awful to say that to a person? You know even though my husband heard me tell him, “Go ahead and kill yourself, so I get your money,” what amazed was that He called back. And I think the reason he called back was because he wanted to hear something different. Because he wanted to hear me say, “I was wrong. Don’t do it. Please don’t do it. You’re special Tom. You have significance. You have worth. I think he needed to have that. Not only do we need significance, but we need to have security, the security of the fact that someone loved him. And I wouldn’t tell him that. And I was his wife. I had borne his two children. I saw a man in need and yet I was so angry. I was so hurt. I was so wounded that my focus was on me instead of on him. I had not one ounce of the kind of love that Tom needed and that was the agape kind of love. And where did it end? It ended at the end of a rope, on a closet door, in a bachelor’s apartment where he hung himself. When I went to that apartment and I went to his bed and I saw what he had left beside his bed, it was a poem out of “Parade” magazine, the Sunday supplement section and it was a poem about love and a poem about life. And his life was gone. And I don’t even know if he really knew the source of love. I don’t know where he is. I just know that I discovered the kind of love that he needed, but I discovered that love too late.

## **PART TWO**

Precious One, I want to take you to some scriptures, so that you can understand this kind of love. Because believe me, it’s the glue that holds a marriage together, because it’s the glue that connects you with God. It’s the glue that gives you this love and this ability to love. I thought I had it. But I

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thought I had it because I had a religion and I didn't have a relationship. And that's why I didn't have it. Go to 1 John, chapter 4. Listen to what he says. And this is the first time that love is used in this chapter. It's used throughout the book. But in verse 7, it says, "Beloved let us love one another, for love is from God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." So he has just told you that love is from God. Now this word for love, here, in this text, is the word "agape", "a-g-a-p-e", that unconditional, sacrificial, unending, everlasting love. It's a love and I want you to get this. I want you to remember that agape kind of love is unconditional. I want you to remember that it's sacrificial. I want you to remember that it's everlasting, unending. And I want you to remember this. That it is a love that ministers. Unconditional love, agape love, is a love that desires another's highest good it's a love that is focused toward the object of that love. And so he says in this passage. "That love is from God." He says, "The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love." God is agape. He is unconditional, sacrificial, everlasting, ministering love. That's what He is. That's God and He loves you. He loves you. And you say, "You know, I'm so glad to hear that, but I want to hear about marriage." I want you to know that if you don't understand this, then marriage is never going to be all that it ought to be. And if you don't know where to get this kind of love from and you don't know how to let this kind of love flow through you and you don't know how to recognize it, and you don't know how it behaves, then you're going to miss out. And so this is an essential kind of love because this is the love that will not walk away. All right, now, as we go down through this, we see in verse 9. "By this, the love of God was manifested in us." That God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him and this is so important for understanding agape kind of love, because actually the definition of love, of agape kind of love, comes from its usage. When you see where it's used and when you make a list of all the things that you see about it, then you see the attributes

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of this kind of love. You see the characteristics of this kind of love. You see the description of this kind of love. And so he goes on to say, “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” Now when you look at this verse, what I want you to see is that the love that God has for us, the agape kind of love is a love that begins with the lover, with the possessor of that kind of love. In other words, it isn’t called out of that person by some quality over here. When I call you precious, it’s not that that you’ve proven yourself, it’s not that that you’ve excelled, it’s not that you’re the most beautiful, most attractive, most intelligent, most wonderful, most whatever. It’s not that. But agape kind of love begins here and goes towards this person and loves this person even when they are a sinner. Now can you understand how important this kind of love is to marriage? Because when I look at someone, if I had looked at Tom with this kind of love, then no matter what he did, no matter what his needs were, if I had that kind of love for Tom, then I would have ministered to him. Instead of being concerned about me and my happiness, I would have been concerned about him and his welfare. And I would have let him know that he has significant. I would have let him know that he is secure that there is a person who will always love him and who will always say, “You are important. You have worth.” You say, “I don’t think that I could ever love my mate like that because you just don’t know my mate.” Now, I may not know your mate, but I’ve heard about a lot of terrible, terrible, terrible mates. I mean just absolutely horrible people. And you say, how do you love them and what do you do then? And we’re going to cover that, so you just have to stick with me as we do this, like I said, precept upon precept. All right, now I want to drop down to verse 19. And I want to make sure that you see where this agape kind of love comes from. “We love because He first loved us.” Now we love with an agape kind of love because He, God, first “agaped” us. If you’re going to love with this kind of love, you have to have a right relationship with God. And that right relationship doesn’t mean

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that you scrub yourself up, get yourself all clean, get in your best behavior and all that, and then say, “Okay, God here I am. Am I acceptable?” That’s not it. It’s that you understand that because God is God and because He is love, that He loves you right where you are. He loves you in the mess that you’re in. And I just feel that even right now, as I’m talking, that I’m talking to someone that has abused others, someone that has hit the very pits, someone that has been mean and horrible and destructive and murderous and abusive, someone that has gone almost as low as a human being can go. And you know what? I can tell you, today. God loves you. God loves you. And He doesn’t want to leave you there. And He doesn’t want you to think that you, because of all of this, have no value. He knows how you got there. He knows what was done to you. He knows what was lacking in your life and yet, you know what? The Bible talks about God rolling up His sleeve with His strong right hand of power, of reaching down to get you right where you are and say to you and lift you up out of all that muck and all that mire and all those self inflicted wounds and all those destructive behaviors and tell you, “I love you. I love you. You may hate Me. You may have reviled Me. You may have blasphemed Me. You may have broken My law, but I want you to know this, I want you to know that I love You. I love you so much that you know what? I want you to become the bride of My Son. I want you in My family.” God has a wife and that wife is Israel. Jesus has a wife and that wife is the church. And the church is someone that was in a state like you, and many, many others at all levels of life, all levels of sin. And He’s saying, “I want to bring you into My forever family.” And all you have to do, Precious One, is say to God, “God, I want to come. I want to be loved. I want to be loved unconditionally.” And if you’ll say that to Him, and you’ll pick up the phone and call us, we’ll tell you how it can happen.