

Agape



And it's Impact on Martin Luther King, Jr.

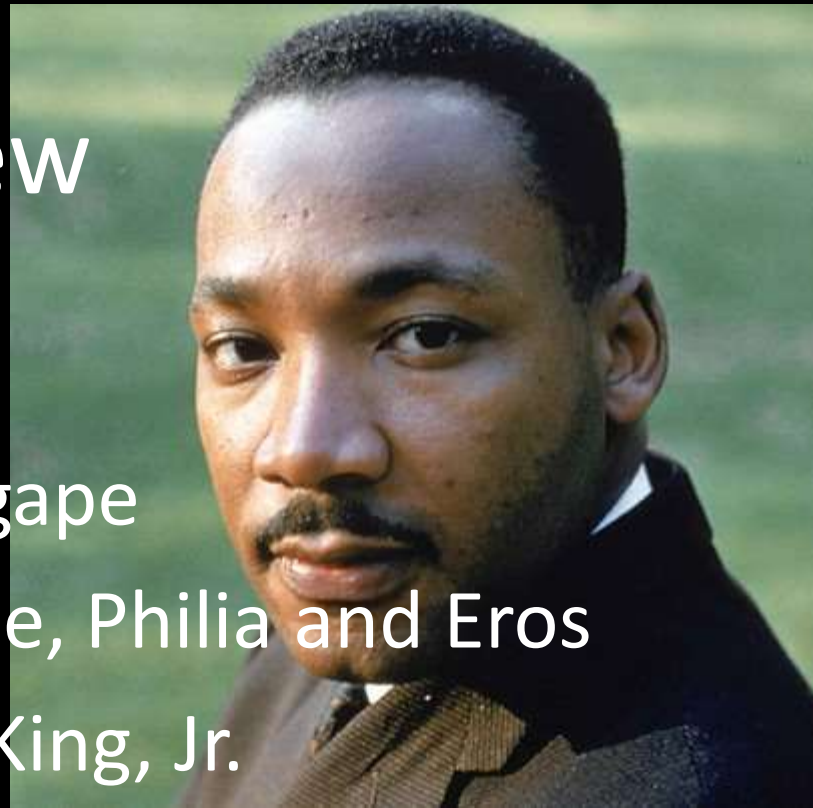
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Synopsis

The meaning of *agape* has been critical to Christianity since the first century; it was also essential to the Civil Rights Movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This project is an effort to trace the history of *agape* and explain its impact on Dr. King.

Overview

- Agape in the Bible
- Historical Definitions of Agape
- Early Greek Usage of Agape, Philia and Eros
- Agape and Martin Luther King, Jr.



Agape in the Bible

- John – 22/30
- Paul (1 Cor.) – 14/15
- Paul (Rom.) – 12/13

Agape, agaposin, agapen, agapes, agapas,
agapo, agapeseis

Philei, philadelphia, philo, phileis




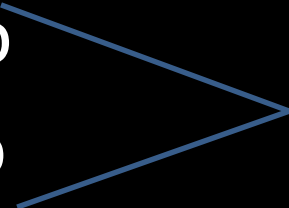
The Gospel According to John

- “Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” (Jn 12:25)
- “The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands.” (Jn 3:35)
- “The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing.” (Jn 5:20)

The Letters of Paul

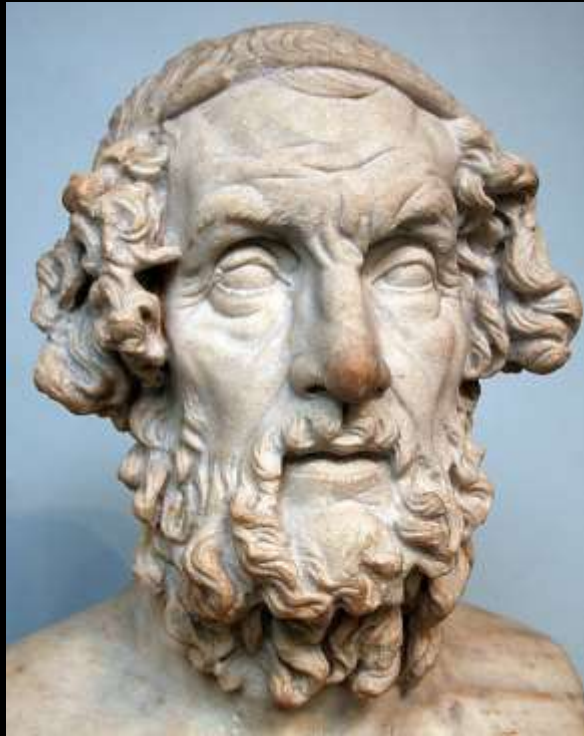
- “Let anyone be accursed who has no love for the Lord.” (1 Cor 16:22)
- “Let all that you do be done in love.” (1 Cor 16:14)
- “Love one another with mutual affection.” (Rom 12:10a)
- “Who can separate us from the love of Christ?” (Rom 8:35)

Historical Definitions

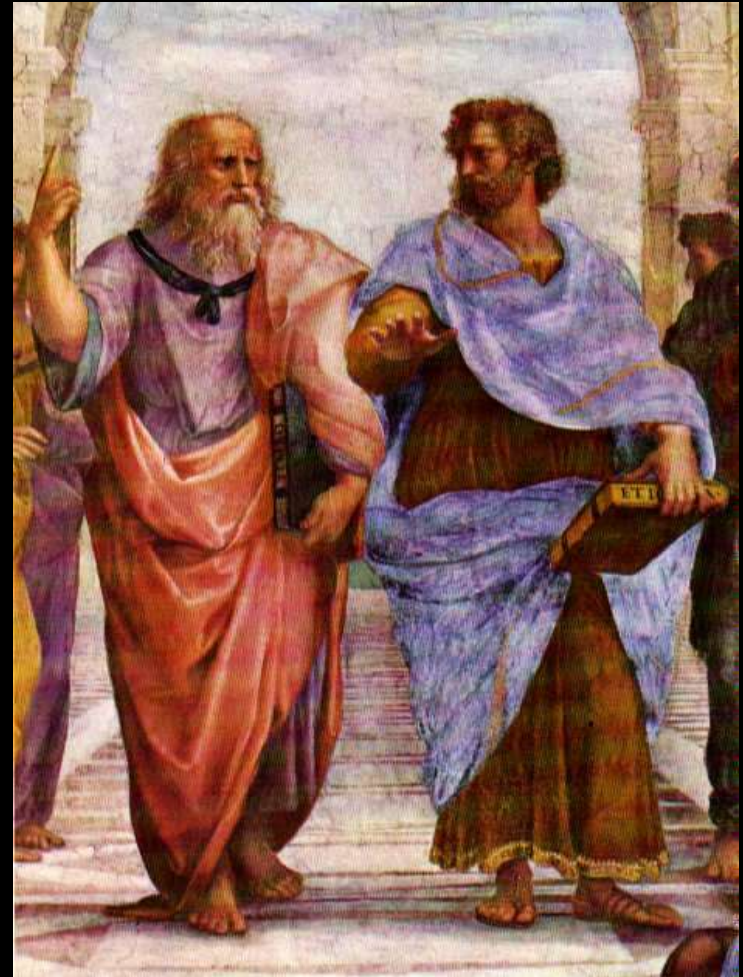
- Agapao  Phileo
 - Agapao  Phileo
 - Agapao  Phileo
- Author A
- 

“[agape is a] love that makes distinctions...the love of one on high, exalting them of low degree” and “[agapao is] colourless and indefinite. The verb often means no more than to be content with something...a mere synonym [with phileo]”

Early Greek Philosophers



Homer: Born cir. 8th-9th Century B.C.E.



Plato: 427 – 347 B.C.E.

Aristotle: 384 – 322 B.C.E.

Aristotle on Love

“Μετα δε ταυτα περι φιλιασ εποιτ αν διελθειν.” –
Aristotle (Nic. Ethics VIII)

***Our next business after this will be to discuss
Friendship.***

“και φίλαυτος δη μάλιστα ό τοῦτο αγαπων και
τοῦτω χαριζόμενος.” – Aristotle (Nic. Ethics IX)

***He therefore who loves and indulges the
dominant part of himself is a lover of self in
the fullest degree.***

MLK – Pilgrimage to Nonviolence

- Early life in Atlanta
 - KKK, Police Brutality, Civil Injustice
- Moorehouse College (1944)
 - “Civil Disobedience” – H. Thoreau
- 1948
 - *Christianity and the Social Crisis* – W. Rauschenbusch
 - Hobbes, Mill, Locke

MLK – Pilgrimage to Nonviolence

- 1949
 - *Communist Manifesto* – Karl Marx
 - *Das Kapital* – Karl Marx
 - Rejection of Communism
- Early 1950's
 - Friedrich Nietzsche
 - Gandhi
 - *Satyagraha*

Agape and Martin Luther King, Jr.

- “*Agape* is not a weak, passive love. It is love in action. *Agape* is love seeking to preserve and create community. It is insistence on community even when one seeks to break it...Love, *agape*, is the only cement that can hold this broken community together. When I am commanded to love, I am commanded to restore community, to resist injustice, and to meet the needs of my brothers.”

Conclusion

Agape was distinguished as different from *philia* and established as the primary form of Love for the Christian church at the Synod of Constantinople 1041 C.E.

Dr. King augmented *agape* and his interpretation of Jesus through the perception of Christian Liberation Theology, influenced by Gandhi and the concept of Satyagraha.

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