

# “Love” Marching to the Beat of Your Drum

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**Challenge:** Allow the Love of Christ rather than duty to compel you to reach others with the gospel this year.

**Question:** So often we are told that it is important to reach the lost and tell them about Christ, the Savior of the world. But what compels a person, who is doing just fine with their Christian family and Christian friends, to want to take time away from their comfort and merriment to reach out to someone they might not even really like? What does a Christian whose heart has been conquered by Love have the ability to do that the “average Christian” does not?

**Point 1: John 21:15-19, Acts 10:9-48**

There are two types of love introduced in this passage. While all love comes from God, only agape carries the power to motivate us to love people despite our differences or feelings. This is the kind of love required to conquer the world.

<u>agape</u>	vs.	<u>phileo</u>
- free, unforced, voluntary love stemming from the will		-love originating from preference or taste; based on common interests
-agreement with the will and ways of God regardless of feeling or circumstance		- moved by emotion over and above the will
- based on the best interest of the person no matter how uncomfortable for the giver		- based on the best interest of those you are fond of
-often the more costly form of love because of the element of sacrifice for the giver		-this love thrives when meeting needs

**Point 2: Proverbs 29:18**

How does Agape express itself through you this year? It is important to have a vision for how you plan to allow God to use you to increase His Kingdom in hearts this year. Understanding your unique expression of God’s love is the beginning to gaining your vision. Endeavor to discern the rhythm – the song – the God sings through you to humanity. Then make practical steps in order that you might sing that song to a particular person or group of people.

**Example:** If you really want people to know God is the ultimate provider of all we need, you may want to volunteer for the Durham Rescue Mission or organize food drives at your school

How to discern your drum beat:

- 1 – Ask yourself what your default expression of God’s love to people is. This would be the thing you do or say that seems to get expressed without you missing a “beat.”
- 2 – What really makes you tick when it comes to the gospel? What causes a sense of righteous anger or deep mercy to rise from within you?
- 3 – What part of the gospel message speaks to you the most? Is it the love of God? The healing of the blood of Christ? The ministry to the lowly? The wrath God has for injustice? Or, if it is something else, what?

*My Thoughts...*