

Self-disposing LOVE: The Significance of Understanding Agape Love in a Christian Marriage

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Abstract

Marriage is an institution ordained by God, and like everything else that affects society, it has to be worked at to ensure success. Mitchell (2002) affirms that God made men and women different to fulfil their special roles in loving each other. He emphasises that instead of disparaging these differences between male and female and trying to negate them, we should acknowledge them and allow God to use them to strengthen marriages. A marriage relationship is used to exemplify the unification of Christ and the Church. God laid down foundational rules for marriages, among which communication and unselfish behaviour towards spouses are viewed as fundamental components of marriage.

This paper discusses one of the key matters in a marriage from a Christian perspective and that is the matter of love. The authors attempt to understand the meaning of love from a Christian perspective and the implications thereof in understanding a Christian marriage. The paper begins with a general discussion on Christian love which is then followed by a discussion on love between husband and wife and ends with a concept of marriage offered by the authors.