

Weekend Teaching Discussion Guide

True Love – Week 3: Eros (Romantic and Passionate Love)

Teaching by Davey Blackburn

WARM-UP QUESTION

The English language uses the word "love" to describe many different experiences. When you think about romantic love, what images or feelings come to mind first? Excitement, attraction, security, intensity, companionship, or something else? Why do you think that is?

DISCUSS

1. Understanding Eros in God's Design

Davey Blackburn taught that Scripture describes four kinds of love: Eros, Philia, Storge, and Agape. The first three are foretastes of Agape, yet they fall short of it.

- Why do you think God created different expressions of love instead of just one?
- How can Eros be both a gift from God and something that ultimately cannot satisfy us on its own?
- Davey said our vertical relationship with God should inform our horizontal relationships, not the other way around. What happens when we reverse that order?

Read John 3:16 and 1 John 4:19.

- How do these verses redefine where love begins?

2. The Power and Limits of Passion

Read Genesis 29:1-12 and Genesis 29:16-18.

- What stands out to you about Jacob's passion and pursuit of Rachel?
- Davey described Eros as the feeling of falling in love and being in love, which makes you willing to do almost anything. Why does that kind of passion often feel so powerful?

Davey pointed out three ways Eros tends to fade:

- Attraction wanes
- Intentionality wears down
- Selfishness wounds

- Which of these most commonly threatens romantic relationships today? Why?
- Have you seen how busyness, neglect, or unresolved hurt can cause people to fall out of love? What does that reveal about the limits of Eros alone?

3. When Wounding Shapes Our View of Love

Davey shared that when we experience relational wounding, we often project that pain onto God.

- Why is it easy to superimpose human disappointment onto our view of God?
- How can becoming guarded protect us from pain but also prevent us from experiencing deep joy?
- In what ways might withholding love actually be rooted in our own fractured need for love?

4. The Greater Love Story

Davey walked through the Jewish wedding imagery and connected it to God's covenant with Israel and to Jesus.

- What aspects of the Jewish wedding tradition stood out to you most?
- How does seeing Jesus as the pursuing Bridegroom deepen your understanding of God's passionate love for you?

Read Hosea 2:14–16.

- What does this passage reveal about the tenderness and pursuit of God, even after unfaithfulness?
- How does this reshape your understanding of passion in a spiritual sense?

5. From Eros to Agape

Davey taught that our deepest desire is not just physical attraction or emotional intensity, but to be fully known and fully loved.

- Why does that longing run so deep in every human heart?
- How does Christ transform Eros into Agape?
- Davey said love can only be truly experienced when love is given. How does that challenge the way culture defines romance?

- What might it look like to move from consuming love to covenant love in marriage or dating?

6. The Fruit of Passion and Devotion

Davey contrasted the fruit of passion with the fruit of devotion.

- Why is devotion essential for sustaining what passion begins?
- In your current season of life, do you tend to lean more on feelings or on faithfulness? What would it look like to grow in devotion?
- How does understanding God's covenant faithfulness strengthen your ability to love someone consistently?

CLOSING REFLECTION

Each of us is likely in one of these places. Which one best describes you right now?

- I need healing from relational wounds that have shaped how I view love.
- I need to let my relationship with God reshape my expectations of romance.
- I am in a relationship and want to move from passion alone to covenant devotion.
- I need to embrace the truth that I am fully known and fully loved in Christ.

PRAYER

Close by thanking God for creating romantic love as a glimpse of His greater covenant love. Ask Him to heal relational wounds, restore intentionality where it has faded, and transform passion into enduring devotion. Pray for the courage to receive His pursuing love and to reflect that love faithfully in every relationship.