

Weekend Teaching Discussion Guide

True Love – Week Four: Storge

Teaching by Pastor Ken

WARM-UP QUESTION

When you think about the word family, what comes to mind first: security, responsibility, conflict, belonging, sacrifice, or something else? Why?

DISCUSS

1. Understanding Storge: The Love That Says We Belong

Pastor Ken explained that storge is the Greek word describing familial love. It is not flashy or filled with emotional fireworks. It is the steady love that says, we belong to one another. We are here. We are committed.

In Biblical times, family was the foundation of social, economic, and religious life. Your survival and identity were tied to your family. God even established laws in the Old Testament, such as the “Kinsman Redeemer,” as seen in the story of Boaz and Ruth, to protect and preserve the family.

- Why do you think God designed the family to be such a central part of identity and survival in Biblical times?
- How is storge love different from friendship love or romantic love?
- Pastor Ken said storge love is not flashy but foundational. Why do we often undervalue steady love in a culture that celebrates excitement?

Read *Romans 12:9–13*.

- What phrases in this passage reflect the heart of Storge love?
 - Why is it important that love is described as something to practice, not just something to feel?
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2. Love Must Be Expressed

Pastor Ken emphasized that love must be expressed. Paul writes, “Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them.” Storge shows up in action.

Examples of Storge love include:

A mom who jumps out of bed in the middle of the night when her child cries.

Brothers who argue at home but defend each other at school.

Families who stick together and remain for one another.

- Why is it easier to say we love someone than to show it consistently?
- In what practical ways can you serve in your home, church, city, or world as an expression of Storge love?
- Pastor Ken mentioned initiatives like caring for children locally and globally. How does serving others demonstrate the love of Jesus rather than simply trying to be good people?

Read *Galatians 5:22*.

- Why do you think love is listed first as the fruit of the Spirit?
 - What does that tell us about the foundation of a life touched by God?
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3. Storge Within the Family of God

In *Romans 12:10*, Paul uses the word **philostorgos**, combining friendship, love, and family love. It means to cherish one's kindred. Believers share the same Heavenly Father and are called to be devoted to one another.

Pastor Ken shared how people in his childhood church became like family. Though not related by blood, they were bound together through shared faith, investment, and love.

- How have you experienced church relationships that felt like family?
- What is the difference between attending church as a place and belonging to church as a family?
- What would it look like for our church to treat one another not just as friends, but as brothers and sisters?

Storge expands beyond blood DNA to include those who share in the family of God.

- How does understanding that we share the same Heavenly Father reshape the way we treat one another?
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4. Healthy Boundaries and Complicated Situations

Pastor Ken addressed a difficult but important reality. Loving God and being loved by God does not eliminate the need for healthy, God-honoring boundaries. In abusive or harmful situations, protecting yourself or your children can be the loving thing to do.

- Why is it important to understand that Biblical love does not mean tolerating abuse or harm?
 - How can we balance commitment with wisdom and safety?
 - How can the church better support those navigating complicated family situations?
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5. The Opposite of Storge

Paul uses the word **astorgos** in *Romans 1:29–32*, meaning without natural affection or without family love.

Read *Romans 1:29–32*.

- According to this passage, what happens in a society that lacks Storge?
 - Pastor Ken said that without Storge, families fracture, community decays, and people are cast aside. Where do you see evidence of that today?
 - Why do you think the absence of family love leads to so many other forms of brokenness?
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6. Received, Developed, Shared

Pastor Ken reminded us that Storge love cannot be built or bought. It is received, then developed, then shared. It is impossible to share what you do not possess.

The foundation of Christianity is the love of God in Christ that offers salvation. From that love flows the love of believers for one another.

Read *1 Corinthians 13:1–7*.

- Why does Paul elevate love above spiritual gifts and abilities?
 - What does this teach us about the priority of love over talent or achievement?
 - How do we receive God's love in a way that transforms how we love others?
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CLOSING REFLECTION

Which statement best reflects where you are right now?

- I need to receive and rest in the love of God before I can love others well.
- I need to express Storge more intentionally in my home.
- I need to see my church as family, not just a place I attend.
- I need wisdom and courage to establish healthy, God-honoring boundaries.
- I need to move from pretending to love to actively demonstrating love.

PRAYER

Close by thanking God for His faithful, family-forming love. Thank Him that through Christ we are adopted into His family and share the same Heavenly Father. Ask Him to help you receive His love deeply, develop it faithfully, and share it generously. Pray for stronger families, a united church family, and a renewed commitment to love not just in words, but in action.