

NOTES:

Our English word “love” has many definitions; [Merriam-Webster](#) lists nine definitions for the noun love, plus four definitions for the verb love.

“Love” can mean the love God has for mankind, the love a person has for a best friend, the love a parent has for a child, or the physical act of making love. When we read the word “love”, we can only understand the type of “love” referenced through the context of surrounding words – and even then, it can be a guessing game.

Examples:

- I love mountain scenery.
- He and I played tennis and, after the first game, my score was love (zero).
- I love my old college roommate; we will be best friends forever.

The ancient Greek language had nine different words for “love”. Six definitions appear below.

[These Greek definitions were found at <https://www.greecehighdefinition.com/blog/9-different-types-of-love-according-to-the-ancient-greeks>]

AGAPÉ: UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Agapé (ἀγάπη) is an unconditional love that is not dependent on any external factors. Acts of charity and altruism are often born out of Agapé love... Agapé is the least selfish form of love and does not require anything in return. [The highest form of Agapé love was demonstrated by Christ Jesus as He surrendered His life on the cross to redeem us.]

PHILIA: SOUL CONNECTION

Philia (φιλία) is a platonic feeling. This Greek word for love implies spiritual connection, trust, and sharing of the same values. Philia usually grows between friends or family members. [The platonic love a friend has for a best friend; BFF(best friends forever)]

STORGE: DEVOTED LOVE

Storge (στοργή) ... usually relates to love within a family. While the care and devotion of Storge is an integral part of Philia’s connection, it may also be one-sided. An excellent example of Storge is when a parent cares for a child, makes them feel secure, comfortable, and safe, and [does not] expect anything in return.

PRAGMA: MATURE LOVE

Pragma (πράγμα) is an essential component of making relationships work in the long term. Pragma is love based on duty, reason, and shared goals. Like Philia, Pragma is not limited to romantic partnerships, although it is a vital part of romantic love. It is essential within families and even close friendships. Examples of Pragma manifestation are personal sacrifices for your partner’s benefit, making life and career choices that are best for your relationship rather than just yourself, and carrying out the daily chores and tasks needed to maintain a happy home. Pragma love is perhaps the most difficult to develop and maintain, as it requires continual effort, dedication, and often selflessness. However, the results are often extremely worthwhile in the long-term. Even arranged marriages have been sustained and made satisfying through Pragma, and many failing relationships have been saved.

EROS: SEXUAL DESIRE

In Ancient Greek mythology, Eros (Ἔρως) was a mischievous god of passion and fertility, who was shooting arrows into the hearts of people and immortals and making them feel a sudden overwhelming desire for each other. Although this desire can be interpreted as love, it is primarily physical attraction. That’s where the terms “erotic” and “erotica” came from that nowadays describe human sexuality. It is common to mistake lust – or sexual desire – for romantic love. Sexual attraction can be a potent and overwhelming sensation, and even fool the brain into questionable decision-making.

PHILAUTIA: SELF-LOVE

Philautia (φιλαυτία) is a prerequisite to loving others [as the Greek philosopher Aristotle believed]. Healthy self-love is beneficial to every aspect of life, including relationships, and individuals who love themselves are usually more capable of both giving and receiving all kinds of love. Many destructive behaviors in a relationship can often be rooted in a lack of self-love... self-love can quickly turn into an unhealthy form when a person loves themselves more than anyone else. Unhealthy self-love can be expressed through an inflated ego and usually dependent on social status, abilities, or accomplishments rather than genuine virtues.

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