

# Three Greek Words Translated “Love”

John 21:15–17

***Agapáō* (ἀγαπάω)** is virtuous when directed toward all mankind in a general, unconditional way. In this case, virtue requires that the emphasis be placed on the believer doing the loving, not the one loved.

***Philéō* (φιλέω)** is an intensification of *agapáō* that is acquired by knowledge of the one loved. It, too, is unconditional, but is directed toward a believer for whom the subject has great respect and appreciation.

***Ginōskō* (γινώσκω)** is primarily translated “knowledge,” but when that knowledge develops doctrinal rapport with another believer it takes on the aspects of virtue love.

