



Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

November 2014

We thank God for you! Your prayers and financial support make these things happen:

- **getting God's Word into the hands of people through Bible lessons.** Because of you, we can continue making them free of charge. We grade these lessons with volunteers, and through the mail we continue this process until they complete a series and receive their certificate.
- **keeping us on the radio at peak driving times with our broadcast of "Abiding Above with Chris Hodges."** This is heard in many places here in the United States and Africa.
- **keeping our website up and running smoothly.** This website makes all of my sermons available and, of course, serves as a point of contact for our ministry.
- **In all of these activities, it is our purpose to share the gospel with every person and encourage spiritual growth in every believer by the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God.**

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Every preacher has a main emphasis in his teaching ministry. For some, it is the subject of the walk by faith; for others, it is the subject of things to come; and, for me, it's clearly the subject of grace. But, this year, God has taken me into a deeper understanding of His agape love. This subject of God's love is presently gripping my heart and changing me in ways I have not known before.

Someone has said, *"Love is the circulatory system of the Body of Christ."*

In **verse 31 of chapter 12 in 1 Corinthians** some have translated, *"a still more excellent way"* to *"a still higher path"* or *"a way which surpasses them all."*

I encourage you my friend, to begin this minute walking on ***this higher path which surpasses them all.*** This ***"more excellent way"*** involves the ***"greatest of all things"*** that you see in **chapter 13 verse 13**, which is the Divine agape love which can flow through the child of God who walks in the Spirit.



Chris Hodges
President & CEO

Agape – The Greek word for God’s love is a sacrificial love.

This is a higher level of love than the love a man has for a woman and a woman for a man. This is a higher level of love than friendship love or brotherly love. Romantic love and brotherly love appeal to the emotions. God’s love appeals to the will.

1 Corinthians 13 (The Love Chapter) teaches us to “make love our aim.”

This is why Paul says at the very beginning of chapter **14** that we should “**Pursue love.**”

In **verse 8** we see that this “**love never fails.**” Not maybe never fails! God’s Word clearly says this “**love never fails!**”

Romans 5:5 clearly tells us: “... *the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*”

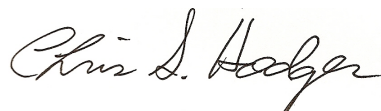
When we become New Testament Christians, that agape is born in us. To love like this is to be like the Lord, and our unlikeness to Christ is proportionate to our failure to love. We must remember ... **2 Peter 1:4** – “... **we are partakers of the Divine nature.**” Therefore, you and I have God’s love (**Divine love**) in us! The same Divine, sacrificial love that we saw at the cross is in us because the Holy Spirit is in us.

My friend, as we stand in front of a mirror we see ourselves. As we look back over this past year at what we have done with our time, talent, and treasures, we see the level of our love for God. Are we operating from God’s love?

One way you can express your love for God is by encouraging us as a ministry through your prayers and financial support. Right now pray and ask God what He might have you do to support us in this ongoing work of reaching the lost for Christ and encouraging spiritual growth in God’s children.

As you think of year-end giving, please make the most generous and cheerful gift you can. We do need you!

We agape you,



Chris S. Hodges
President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3