**Love**

**The Restoration of Peter (John 21:15-17), Agape [heart] vs. Phileo [head]**

**G5368**

φιλέω

**phileō** *fil-eh'-o*

From **G5384**; to *be* *a* *friend* *to* (***fond* *of*** [an individual or an object]), that is, ***have* *affection* for** (denoting *personal* attachment, as a matter of sentiment or feeling; while **G25** is wider, embracing especially the judgment and the *deliberate* assent of the will as a matter of principle, duty and propriety: the two thus stand related very much as G2309 and G1014, or as G2372 and G3563 respectively; the former being chiefly of the *heart* and the latter of the *head*); specifically to *kiss* (as a mark of tenderness): - kiss, love.

**21:15** It has often been pointed out that two different words for **love** are used in these verses. We might paraphrase verse 15 as follows: **“Simon, son of Jonah,** **do you love Me more than these** other disciples love Me?” **He said to Him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I** *am fond of* **You.”** Peter would no longer boast that he would never forsake the Lord, even if all the other disciples did. He had learned his lesson.

**Joh 21:15** SoG3767 whenG3753 they had finishedG709 breakfastG709, JesusG2424 \*saidG3004 to SimonG4613 PeterG4074, "SimonG4613, *son* of JohnG2491, do you love**G25** Me moreG4183 than theseG3778?" He \*saidG3004 to Him, "YesG3483a, LordG2962; You knowG3609a that I love**G5368** You." He \*saidG3004 to him, "TendG1006 My lambsG721b."

**21:16** For the **second time**, the Lord asked Peter if he loved Him. Peter replied the second time, with genuine distrust of himself, **“You know that I** *am fond of* **You.”** This time **He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”** There are lambs and sheep in Christ's flock, and they need the loving care of one who loves the Shepherd.

Joh 21:16 He \*saidG3004 to him againG3825 a secondG1208 timeG1208, "SimonG4613, *son* of JohnG2491, do you love**G25** Me?" He \*saidG3004 to Him, "YesG3483a, LordG2962; You knowG3609a that I love**G5368** You." He \*saidG3004 to him, "ShepherdG4165 My sheepG4263a."

**21:17** Just as Peter had denied the Lord thrice, so he was given three opportunities to confess Him.

This time, Peter appealed to the fact that Jesus was God and therefore knew **all things**. He said **the third time, “You know that I** *am fond of* **You.”** And for the last time, he was told that he could demonstrate this by feeding Christ's **sheep**. In this passage, the underlying lesson is that love for Christ is the only acceptable motive for serving Him.

Joh 21:17 He \*saidG3004 to him the thirdG5154 timeG5154, "SimonG4613, *son* of JohnG2491, do you love**G5368** Me?" PeterG4074 was grievedG3076 becauseG3754 He saidG3004 to him the thirdG5154 timeG5154, "Do you loveG5368 Me?" And he saidG3004 to Him, "LordG2962, You knowG3609a allG3956 thingsG3956; You knowG1097 that I love**G5368** You." JesusG2424 \*saidG3004 to him, "TendG1006 My sheepG4263a.

**Note** that in verses 15 and 16 Jesus asks Peter if he "loves" Him, but in verse 17 Jesus asks Peter if he "is fond of" Him.