If I adore You out of fear of Hell,  
Burn me in Hell.  
If I adore You out of desire for Paradise,  
Lock me out of Paradise.  
But if I adore You for Yourself alone,  
Do not deny to me Your eternal beauty!  
 ~ *Rabia al Basri (717 - 801)*

**Love**

**The Restoration of Peter (**[**John 21:15-17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+21.15-17&t=NKJV)**), Agape [heart] vs. Phileo [head]**

**G25**ἀγαπάω  
agapaō *ag-ap-ah'-o*

Perhaps from *ἄγαν agan* (much; or compare [H5689]); to love (in a social or moral sense): - (be-) love (-ed). Compare G5368.

**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.

[John 21:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+21.15&t=NKJV) 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.

[John 21:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+21.15&t=NKJV) So G3767 when G3753 they had finished G709 breakfast G709, Jesus G2424 \*said G3004 to Simon G4613 Peter G4074, "Simon G4613, son of John G2491, do you **love G25** Me more G4183 than these G3778?" He \*said G3004 to Him, "Yes G3483a, Lord G2962; You know G3609a that I **love G5368** You." He \*said G3004 to him, "Tend G1006 My lambs G721b."

[John 21:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+21.16&t=NKJV) 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.

[John 21:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+21.16&t=NKJV) He \*said G3004 to him again G3825 a second G1208 time G1208, "Simon G4613, son of John G2491, do you **love G25** Me?" He \*said G3004 to Him, "Yes G3483a, Lord G2962; You know G3609a that I **love G5368** You." He \*said G3004 to him, "Shepherd G4165 My sheep G4263a."

[John 21:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+21.17&t=NKJV) 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*.

[John 21:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+21.17&t=NKJV) He \*said G3004 to him the third G5154 time G5154, "Simon G4613, son of John G2491, do you **love G5368** Me?" Peter G4074 was grieved G3076 because G3754 He said G3004 to him the third G5154 time G5154, "Do you love **G5368** Me?" And he said G3004 to Him, "Lord G2962, You know G3609a all G3956 things G3956; You know G1097 that I **love G5368** You." Jesus G2424 \*said G3004 to him, "Tend G1006 My sheep G4263a.

**Note** that in verses 15 and 16 Jesus asks Peter if he "**loves**" [**G25**] Him, but in verse 17 Jesus asks Peter if he "**is fond of**" [**G5368**] Him.

(**Also note**: Tend [G1006] and Shepherd [verb G4165] both relate to 'feeding', but Tend also means 'ruling over.'

The disciples were not just spiritually saved, but had entered the Standing Grace gate and were running the race to qualify for [win] their awaiting inheritance at the Judgment Seat, the soul aspect of salvation. [[Hebrews 12:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.1&t=NKJV); [1 Corinthians 9:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+9.26&t=NKJV)]

In my opinion the job of the shepherds is to feed the Word to the sheep and lambs [God’s people] and grow them from the knowledge of the *milk* of the Word to knowledge of the *meat* of the Word. [[Hebrews 5:12-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+5.12-14&t=NKJV)] One must have a mature knowledge [*epignosis*] of the Word to win the race!)

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