

## ***Love Is A Humane Circle***

*An Essay Written By: James J. Gandi, Nigeria*

Love is infinite, as a circle. The respective finites in every case have an end and or a means to an end while respective infinities have no end or means to an end. Geometrically, a dot is an end on itself, a line has 2 ends, a triangle has 3 ends, a square has 4 ends and a star polygon has 5 ends. Mathematicians reason that although a megagon has 1,000,000 ends; a complete circle has no end or a means to an end. Love is synonymous with a circle, a humane circle that has no end at all. Hence, the saying ‘love is in me and love is universal’ represents the humane circle of “love begins with me”.

According to Hendrick’s (1996) theory and method of love, the different love styles include EROS (passionate love), LUDUS (game playing love), STORGE (friendship love), PRAGMA (practical love), MANIA (possessive, dependent love), and AGAPE (altruistic love). All these elucidations and categorizations, to say the least, points to the fact that love is in me and love is universal. However, the one love “agape” which is described as “altruistic love” stands out in this context even more.

Common sense shows that if an individual loves (expresses love), they in turn perceives (enjoys) love. The perception and expression of love from one person will positively affect the family within which that individual resides. The perception and expression of love from a family will positively affect the community within which that family is located. The perception and expression of love from a community will positively affect the larger society in which that community is a member. The perception and expression of love from the society will positively

affect the entire human race universally. That is the agape (altruistic love) that circles in a constructive humane manner. That 'love begins with me'.

Love fosters '*one-humanity*', just as a circle could be perceived as *one whole*. Moreover, humanity started with one man who was created based on love. Thus, all human beings are sons and daughters of Adam. Our interconnectedness ought to define our unity in diversity as a people. As human beings, the love that bound us together cements relationship within neighborhood, in the society, and across the globe. This does not in any way undermine sense of dependence, interdependence and independence. The spirit of 'love is in me' and 'love is a humane' circle' harnesses these relational existences for good.

Self-acceptance is an act of accepting oneself despite the situation and forgiving yourself not to deliberately do any harm to self. This attitude lays a foundation for one to love others despite their shortcomings and weaknesses, considering the golden rule that says 'do unto others as you would have others do unto you'.

Respect and compassion are components of love, when you love other people with respect and consideration it opens their eyes and makes them think positively towards you, they in turn will treat you with much respect and regard and consider you as a friend and someone special to them. Having respect and compassion for one another will help to dilute our long existing diversities which stood as a bridge for global peace and unity. When we begin to respect people across the globe irrespective of culture, religion, political party, geographical location, economic status and other things, the love we are longing for will automatically be. Respect people across the globe and accepting our differences will serve as a first step towards finding common ground for love across the globe.

All these said, it might be asked again *what is love?* The New International Webster's

Comprehensive Dictionary of English (2013 Edition) defines love as “a strong complex emotion or feeling, causing one to appreciate, delight in, and crave the presence or possession of another and to please or promote the welfare of the other”. This definition aptly portrays the love within me and among humans at large. Our role(s), as individuals, is to deliberately activate and allow this love to permeate and manifest its positive effects for the good of humanity. A situation of unnecessary disharmony, conflicts and setbacks signify the absence of love in our perception (feeling) and or expression (action/behavior). But unity, peace and progress means love have taken the center stage in our perception (feeling) and or expression (action/behavior).

“Love begins with me” should be a deliberate declaration by each one of us as individuals. Let us individually embrace and demonstrate agape (altruistic love) as the framework and catalyst for enhancing oneness in our diversity. Believe perceptually and demonstrate objectively that “love begins with me”.