AGAPE LOVE

George Tabac July 14, 1996

I believe most of us are aware that in the Greek language of scriptures there are primarily two words used to describe love. Phileo and Agape.

Phileo = Tender affection, family love.

Philadelphia = Brotherly love.

Agape (noun) = highest form of love, used 115 times.

Agapao (verb) = highest form of love in action, used 141 times.

Strongs definition for PHILEO is 5368:

To be a friend to (fond of an individual or an object), i.e. have affection for (denoting personal attachment, as a matter of sentiment or feeling;)

while AGAPE is wider embracing especially the judgment and the deliberate assent of the will as a matter of principle, duty, and propriety;

Phileo being chiefly of the heart and the Agape of the head.

From this definition we see Phileo love is confined primarily to those **we know** of our family, friends, and brethren, that we have affection for.

Agape love however is **far more expansive in it's outreach.** It takes in all of God's creation.

Strongs definition of Agape love is only a beginning in our search to find the true overall meaning of Agape love.

In order to understand Agape love we need to realize:

That this life is not an end in itself, but rather its basic purpose is only to be a learning experience, to help prepare ourselves and every other human being for eternity.

With this in mind, we would like to add to Strong's definition one that we arrived at after studying all of the 256 references to Agape or Agapao love in the new testament.

Agape or Agapao love is a love that conducts itself in a way that is always for the BEST ETERNAL INTEREST of all God's creation.

As we consider the scriptural usage of the word Agape, and its verb Agapao, I think we will see this definition fits very well.

We read in:

1 JOHN 4:8

"God is (Agape) love!"

God is Agape, it is part of his very being. It was and is his agape love that always and ever has done everything possible for the best eternal interest of all his creation heavenly and earthly. Notice:

ROM. 5:8 N.A.S.

God demonstrates His own (agape) love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Again in:

JOHN 3:16

For God so loved (agapao) the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God gave the dearest thing in the universe, - **His only begotten son**, because he so loved mankind he was willing to give that which cost him dearly, for mans eternal best interest!

This demonstrates one of the aspects of Agape love, its willingness to give sacrificially of ones self for the eternal interests of others.

Paul's words in 2 Cor. 12:15 further demonstrate this self sacrificing aspect of love for others eternal welfare.

2 Cor. 12:15

"And I will very gladly SPEND AND BE SPENT for you; though the more abundantly I (agapao) love you, the less I be (agapao) loved ."

Agape love will spend and be spent for others. It is not concerned one iota with what it would receive in return, but only what it could do to help others eternal welfare.

Agape love is not something limited to just those we like that we are close to. No it must be as broad as God's and Christ's agape.

Eph. 3:17-19 NIV

"I pray that you being rooted and established in (Agape) love, may have power, together with all saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the (Agape) love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge."

It is so wide, long, high and deep as to take in all that God's plan has provided for - His entire creation.

1 Cor. 16:14 RSV

"Let all that you do be done in (Agape) love."

How more encompassing a statement could there be?

Agape love must be the motivating factor in every thing we do, to everyone we come in contact with.

Our husbands, our wives, our children, our friends, our brethren, our neighbors, our fellow Christians in the systems, our fellow workers, our school companions, everyone we meet in day to day life, even our enemies!

It will cause us to so live that our every decision, our every act is governed by the realization that this life is only a preparation for eternity.

Thus our greatest responsibility toward ourselves and everyone we come in contact with, is to do, to act, to treat, to love in such a way that it will always be for their greatest eternal interest.

1 Thess. 3:12

"The Lord make you to increase and abound in (Agape) love toward one another, and toward all men."

1 Tim. 1:5 (Phillips)

"The ultimate aim of the Christian ministry after all is to produce (Agape) love."

The ultimate goal of our Christian life is to produce Agape love. Paul further brings this out in Col. 3:12-14 where after enumerating the graces of the spirit he adds above all put on Agape.

Col.3:12-14 (NIV)

As God's chosen people, holy and dearly (agapao) loved clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness humility gentleness and patience...and over all these virtues put on (Agape) love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Agape love is the crowning jewel of all the graces, binding them to work together in perfect unity. Thus we are admonished in:

Heb. 10:24 (N.E.)

"We ought to see how each of us may best arouse others to (Agape) love and active goodness."

Agape love is a love which is ever ready to manifest itself in wise, tactful and helpful activity for saint and sinner. It is a love which pities, helps, comforts cheers and blesses all within its reach. To in turn arouse them to love and good works.

Eph. 5:1-2 (RSV)

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in (Agape) love, as Christ loved (Agapao) us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

The vast majority of mankind live their life in such a way as to get the greatest amount of comfort, happiness, and earthly success as soon as possible, for themselves, and their children

As we've often heard the old adage, "Live laugh and be merry for tomorrow we die.

Their total outlook on living, is based only on this present life, for they don't know, or have faith, in any other.

As God's people we know the very opposite is true.

We know this life is but a preparation for eternity!

The best is yet to come! Not only for every single one of us in this room, but for all mankind as well!

We all know this intellectually, but from time to time we need to look inward and ask ourselves, "Am I living my life in harmony with this knowledge??"

Is it from the standpoint that this life is not an end in itself to enjoy, but primarily it is a time to prepare for eternity that lies before us?

What is foremost in my mind in my day to day actions and decisions?

Are they based on doing everything conceivably possible to prepare myself, my children, and everyone we come in contact with for **the life to come?**

Perhaps as we proceed with other agape scriptures they will help us evaluate our growth in achieving the fullness of Agape love.

After Jesus crucifixion the disciples became somewhat discouraged and decided to go fishing. When they came to shore with a catch of fish Jesus met them and prepared breakfast for them.

Then he asked Peter:

John 21:15

"Simon Peter do you (agapao) Love me more than these?"

It was as though our Lord said, Peter is your agape love strong enough to leave this fishing business, and your other social pursuits to go and preach the kingdom?

The same question can be addressed to each of us. May we envision our Lord asking us, "Lovest thou me more than these?" Your wife, your husband, your children, your career, your home, your position, your love of music, or art, or sports, or TV, or what have you?

What is it that takes prime time so to speak of our thoughts? Do we really love the Lord more than any of these? How are we demonstrating it? What is our first love?

In harvest Gleanings 2, page 67 we read:

HARVEST GLEANINGS 2 - PAGE 67

"The Lord's people having food and raiment in reasonable quality and quantity, should be satisfied, content and thankful - should not spend strength in amassing wealth or in worldly ambitions. On the contrary they should begin to enjoy the Lord...and to engage with zeal in the service of the Lord."

When agape love is supreme in our lives it will prompt us to continually weigh in the balance scale the motives for all our actions and decisions.

If we have "food and raiment in reasonable quality and quantity," but our career seems to be beckoning onward to greater heights, we need to ask ourselves the question, will my decision be based on it being for my highest eternal interest, or is it to have a little better comfort for this life?

We are living in a day where we are surrounded by an abundance of material wealth. It is so easy not to be satisfied with just a reasonable quantity and quality of food, raiment, and shelter.

Society, our careers, our boss all beckon us to advance further financially. Put in more overtime, get more schooling, move to that city where there are no brethren, you can better yourself.

The irony of it is you probably can, but the question is **do you really need to?**

There may be times when it would be proper and necessary for a time to better our selves financially. But the point we are trying to make is the need to ask ourselves the question what is enough?

May we strive to always remember this life is merely a preparation for eternity. What we do in these few 80 or 90 years of this life is going to effect the next thousands of millions of years of eternity.

I believe God would be pleased for each of us to strive to spend the least amount of our consecrated time in secular employment as possible, so that we would have more time to spend in spiritual matters.

May we weigh our decisions carefully, some can truly effect our eternal destiny!

Our next scripture shows that agape love applies not only to others but to ourselves.

MATT. 19:19

"Thou shalt (agapao) love thy neighbor as thyself."

It may seem strange at first to think that we are to agape love ourselves, but when we realize that agape love is a love that will always strive to do what is for the best eternal interest of all concerned, we see that it truly would apply to ourselves as well as our neighbors, as well as all mankind.

How do you agape love yourself? By always making your decisions based on what would be for your eternal welfare!

Let's consider some examples. We might start with those who recently graduated from high school and are trying to decide what type of work to enter into.

If you were to apply agape love to yourself, don't think primarily about what will make you most comfortable and successful in this life, but what will be most helpful from a eternal spiritual standpoint.

For those who are seeking a helpmate in marriage, don't think about who is the most handsome, or most beautiful, but who will be the most helpful to help both of you prepare yourselves for eternity.

For those trying to decide what city to move to, don't base it on the most comfortable climate or scenery, but on where will it be most beneficial for you and your family from a spiritual standpoint.

For those who are about to retire, don't think about where or what will be the most relaxing, but where and what you could do to be most productive spiritually for your eternal benefit.

Our consecration wasn't until we retire! Retirement should be a time of zealous activity, for then you will have far more free time to utilize in the Lord's service than ever before.

Use it fully in sharing your agape love with not only your neighbors but all mankind that you can, by spreading the truth in every way you can.

This brings us to the subject of how Agape love enters the picture in our **witnessing**. Jesus said:

JOHN 18:37

"To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth."

The greatest truth Jesus taught each of us, and the greatest truth we can share with our fellow man, is to have them know GOD HAS A PLAN THAT WILL PROVIDE THEM ANOTHER LIFE!

That this life is merely a training ground to prepare us for eternity. That all we do in this life will have a consequence. That what we sow we shall reap!

Agape love should compel us to want to share this precious truth with everyone we meet. What more important knowledge is there on the face of this earth.?

But how should it be done? What should our witnessing consist of?

May it never be to make ourselves shine. To show how much we know. To show how superior our scriptural reasoning is. To show the fallacy of their errors. To show our understanding of Greek or Hebrew. To denounce their religion. To come out the victor in a debate.

No! No! May it never be. Agape love must be kind and gentle. They must feel our love and concern. We must use wisdom and tact to conduct ourselves in such a way, that will have the greatest positive effect for their eternal welfare.

Notice a comment of Bro. Russell's in the 1st Volumes forward:

VOLUME 1 FORWARD, Page 1

For above five years preceding the first publication of this Volume, we had substantially the same matter in print under another name and differently presented. That book was entitled "Food for Thinking Christians." Its style was different in that it first of all attacked the error, demolished it; and then, in its place, erected the fabric of Truth.

We finally learned that this was not the best way, that some became alarmed as they saw their errors falling, and failed to read far enough to get a glimpse of the beautiful structure of Truth in place of the demolished errors.

May we not forget this valuable lesson!

In our study of prophecy we have seen that the false church systems, as well as the nations will soon crumble and fall.

Rev. 19:15 speaking of our Lord says:

REV. 19:15

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Based on this scripture we may at first be inclined to think that part of our responsibility is to put forth a truth message that will denounce the systems, and this condemnation in turn is what will bring about their fall.

We truly believe they will fall, but not because we belittle, condemn or denounce openly their gross errors and conduct.

The sword or truth out of our Lord's mouth will indeed expose all aspects of human depravity, all corruption in business, government and religion.

It will sweep away the refuge of lies, and cause the Lord's Great Army to rise up to overthrow Satan's evil institutions

Then in its place God will establish the kingdom in all its glory. All mankind will be resurrected from the tomb, and will be given the opportunity for eternal life. Those who will be rightly exercised in applying the lessons of this life with those of the kingdom will go on to live eternally.

But only the Lord who could read the hearts of men could accomplish this. We would like to read a quote from Bro. Russell's from Reprint 3326.

R3326

It is not for us to sit in judgment upon the course of John the Baptist, to determine whether or not he exceeded his duty in his criticism of the king and queen. We are inclined, however, to think that he did exceed his duty...

In our understanding of the teachings of the Scriptures it is not the duty of the Lord's people to go through the world rebuking sin, but preaching the Gospel. It is the Gospel which we preach by our words and by our lives, that is the "power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

We emphasize this, because it is our observation that some of the Lord's people feel it is their duty to copy John's course in such matters rather than to copy the Lord Jesus and the apostles, and we believe that herein they err.

The Gospel is not sent to break men's hearts but to bind up the broken-hearted, - to heal those whose hearts are already broken...

He who uses the Gospel as a hammer has mistaken his commission which for the whole Christ reads "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek, to bind up the broken-hearted," etc. Isa. 61:1

Words that truly exemplify the spirit of agape love, regarding the attitude of heart and mind we should have in our witnessing.

Brother Russell however did expect the true church would play a limited part in this sword of truth that would go forth from our Lord's mouth. What will it be?

He expected the true church would be involved in spreading an unprecedented world wide message of truth that would enlighten the masses shortly before Babylon's collapse, and it would play a partial role in their demise.

We still believe this will take place. But not because of a message of condemnation of Christendom, but rather it will be by a world wide spread of pure harmonious truth of God's wondrous plan.

A plan that has provisions to bless everyone that has ever lived not just a few. A plan that shows that this life is but a learning experience preparing all mankind for eternity. A plan that provides for two salvations. A plan that shows the Bible hell is but a place of sleep to await the resurrection. That God is a God of love not eternal torment.

As a result of comparing the beauty of truth of God's plan with the errors instigated by the adversary, we believe a large part of the religious aspect of Christendom will recognize that that which they believed and were taught for centuries was not God's plan.

Thus a part of the sword out of our Lord's mouth **will** be a message of truth from the true church, but may it ever be a message motivated by agape love, a love that will do all in it's power to be a tactful blessing for the eternal benefit of every human being.

Recall again the lesson of Bro. Russell's 1st Volume experience.

We do not believe denouncing or condemning someone's errors first, will make them the most receptive to hear the beauty of truth afterward.

Let the beauty of truth come forth from us in a spirit of agape love, leaving it up to the recipient to recognize it's beauty as compared to the error of their previous understanding.

May we recall what is the **ultimate goal of the churches work** now and in the kingdom as shown in 2 Cor.5:18-19.

2 COR. 5:18

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the *ministry of reconciliation*; that God was in Christ, *reconciling the world unto himself*, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the *message of reconciliation*. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Thus agape love residing in each of our hearts should set ourselves to the task of reconciling or WINNING UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS EVERY SINFUL HEART!

Thus the great work before us, is to help reconcile some to God now, and for others, to help them to be better prepared to be reconciled in the kingdom.

This is what agape love is all about! May we remember:

That the basic purpose of this life, is only to help prepare every human being for eternity!

Agape love in turn conducts itself in a way that is always for the BEST ETERNAL INTEREST of all God's Creation!

1 Cor. 16:14 RSV

"Let all that you do be done in (Agape) love."

Let's go on to see how agape love enters into other day to day relationships.

EPH 5:25

"Husbands, (agapao) love your wives, even as Christ also (agapao) loved the church, and gave himself for it."

Truly the greatest love a husband or wife can bestow on one another, is ever doing that which would be for the others eternal best interest, whether they will receive a heavenly or earthly salvation.

To provide an environment of love for the heart to develop more and more to be prepared for the kingdom.

Every husband should be glad and willing if agape love indicates the need, to share the load of household needs in whatever way possible. Wash the dishes, scrub the floor, launder the clothes!

Likewise every wife, if agape love indicates the need, should be glad and willing to cut the grass, paint the walls or do what ever may be required within your capability.

Each should be motivated to help the other to have time for study, meditation, activity or whatever it takes, to have an atmosphere as conducive as possible for the development of the New Creature.

Agape love will always do for the other what is for their best eternal welfare!

Next we would like to consider how agape love applies to our children.

Eph. 6:4 (N.E.)

Fathers do not goad your children to resentment, but give them the *instruction and the correction*, which belongs to a Christian upbringing.

I believe a natural tendency of many loving parents today is to provide food, shelter, raiment, toys, games, recreation, education, guidance, all with the motivation of doing whatever it takes to make them HAPPY, AND SUCCESSFUL IN THIS LIFE!

As good as this motivation is, we believe there is a better one. Agape love is not so much concerned with their present well being, as it is with their eternal destiny.

Parents agape love should always bear in mind that they have a tremendous responsibility for this new life they brought into being.

A responsibility to help prepare them not just for a life time but for eternity.

This is what agape love will endeavor to do. It will always and ever be weighing and considering what will help my child be best prepared, not so much for ease and happiness in this life, but for their well being and happiness thruout the ages to come.

This we believe should be the goal of every parents agape love. It should influence every decision we make regarding our children.

What toys shall I purchase for them?

What games shall I allow them to play?

What playmates shall I encourage them to have?

Courage not to fear disciplining as a part of agape love.

What books shall I encourage or forbid them to read?

What school shall I have them attend?

What TV programs will I allow them to see, and how often?

Shall I allow them to engage in this activity or not?

Shall I encourage higher education or not?

Shall I encourage attending a community college, or a distant school where there is no ecclesia?

Should I guide them into this career which will make this life easier or the other which will be better for their overall eternal welfare?

Each of these decisions we believe should be influenced by the agape love weighing the matter as to what will prepare them most, not for this life, but for eternal life.

Next we go on to consider agape love as it applies to the brethren.

1 John 3:14,16-18 (NIV)

"We know we have passed from death to life, because we (agapao) love the brethren...This is how we know what (agape) love is; Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

If anyone has material possessions and sees his a brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the (agape) love of God be in him? Dear children let us not (agape) love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

Here we see the sacrificial aspect of agape love. A willingness to lay down ones life for the brethren. That is, agape love will do what ever it takes in cost to self, to help a brother in their struggle up the narrow way.

Another example of agape love for the brethren is in Romans 14 where we have the account of how some weaker brethren were stumbled by seeing other brethren eating meat offered to idols. Notice how agape love should react.

Rom. 14:15,21

"If your brother is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in (agape) love...It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles."

We might have a deeper knowledge of truth principals that allows us to participate in a certain activity, but if we know our doing it will injure another, agape love enters the picture and we will refrain less we stumble them.

Paul continues his logic:

Rom. 14:19, 15:1,2 NAS

So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another...Now we who are strong ought...not just please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification

How good it would be for us to remember this scripture in our business meetings. Have you ever consciously thought of this scripture in a business meeting when you had a rather strong preference for a certain action, but for the sake of peace you relinquished your personnel preference for your neighbors edification?

Notice Bro. Russell's comments on this subject in the April 24th manna comment.

APRIL 24TH MANNA

"Let everyone one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification." Rom. 15:2

The lesson to each member of the Royal Priesthood is that the special mission of their office, vocation, calling in the present time, is to sacrifice....One form of service frequently not discerned by the Royal Priesthood is the opportunity of renouncing our own ways or plans, our own methods or preferences, and in the interest of peace accepting instead the plans, the preferences of others—where it is merely a matter of personal preference, and where we believe the Lord will be as willing to have the matter one way as another. We can in the interest of peace sacrifice our preferences to the wishes of others if we see some good can be gained by such a course.

Another example of how agape love sacrifices self, self preferences in this case, for the eternal interest of another.

Now we would like to consider how **constructive criticism** is a part of agape love.

Recall the incident in 1 Cor.5, where Paul had to reprimand the ecclesia for not taking action to disfellowship one for gross immorality of taking his fathers wife.

Then in Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians he had to correct the ecclesia because they had gone too far in their disfellowshipping.

2 Cor. 2:6-8 (RSV)

For such a one this punishment by the majority is enough; so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your (agape) love for him.

Here we see constructive criticism **must be a part of agape love.** It was agape love that saw a need for disfellowshipping, and it was agape love which saw a need to forgive and comfort and reinstate full fellowship again.

Agape love is always and ever interested in what will be for the eternal well being of another. Sometimes it must take the path of constructive criticism, just as God at times has to chasten us for our overall spiritual benefit.

Thus if we see one of our brethren backsliding from their consecration, losing the spirit of sacrifice, or the spirit of moral purity, or paying too much attention to the things of the world, - THEN the spirit of agape love should prompt us to inquire kindly, lovingly, in such a way that the recipient will know and feel we are saying or writing what we are, because we love them, that we sincerely care, we want to help, we're concerned for their well being. It must be obvious that our motive is not to busy body or berate them but to help them.

Anyone of us could lose sight of our goal for a brief time, and just as we would want to have it called to our attention, to help us back to the straight and narrow, so our agape love for others should do the same for them.

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of displaying agape love is found in Matt. 5:43-48

MAT 5:43-48

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt (agapao) love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, (agapao) Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;...For if ye (agapao) love them which (agapao) love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?...Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

The height of Christian attainment is shown here, when we can truly with all our heart, have an agapao love even for those who hate us and persecute us.

Agapao love will hate the sin, but never the sinner. It will not retaliate, but will have compassion remembering all are under the curse and blinded by Satan.

Jesus is telling us to demonstrate perfect agapao love even to our enemies, just as our father did for us while we were yet sinners. We must remember there will be another life for them, and we must do all we can to help them prepare for it.

Another aspect of agape love, is that it prevents sins of omission. Generally when we think of sin, we think of those sins outwardly committed that are contrary to God's commands or principals. But let's notice a powerful scripture regarding sins of omission.

James 4:17 (RSV)

"Whoever knows what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

The reason we mentioned that agape love prevents sins of omission, is because it is to be the governing principal of our lives.

It is agape love that will call to our attention to do or to say what will be for the eternal best interest of all with whom we have to, as well as ourselves.

Thus if we are told to agape love our brethren, and we do nothing to demonstrate it, it is sin.

If we are told to agape love our enemy, and we do nothing to show it, it is sin.

If we are told to visit the sick, and we do nothing, it is sin.

If we are told to be God's ambassadors, and virtually do nothing to accomplish it, it is sin.

If we vowed to live a life of sacrifice, and do not, it is sin.

"Whoever knows what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

After considering many aspects of agape love, we would like to close with the scripture which portrays the epitome of agape love that God wants us each to develop.

1 Cor. 13:1-7 (NIV)

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not (agape) love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophecy, and can fathom all mysteries, and all knowledge, and if I have a faith, that can move mountains, but have not (agape) love, I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor, and surrender my body to the flames, but have not (agape) love, I gain nothing.

(Agape) Love is patient, (agape) love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

(Agape) love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Here we see the epitome of what God desires us to be! The end result of this life's experiences for us, is to be perfect agape love.

It isn't oratory, it isn't the ability to understand all prophecy and all scripture, it isn't an outstanding faith, it isn't a life of complete sacrifice, it isn't a complete acquiescence to persecution.

No, though all these qualities are highly desirable, - in themselves they are nothing if they haven't contributed to the one most important quality of character God desires, - **agape love.**

In fact we believe no one will ever receive everlasting life either spiritual or human, who has not attained perfect agape love.

May we strive to remember:

That the entire basic purpose of this life, is but to help prepare each human being for eternity, with the desired end result of attaining Agape Love!

A love that conducts itself in a way that is always for the BEST ETERNAL INTEREST of all God's Creation!