How convoluted the understanding of the multi-faceted word LOVE. Here's a breakdown of four types of love we experience (most time in tandem), throughout this life's journey.

 The [Greek language](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language) distinguishes at least four different ways as to how the word [love](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love) is used. [Ancient Greek](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greek) has four distinct words for [love](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love): *agápe*, *éros*, *philía*, and *storgē*. However, as with other languages, it has been historically difficult to separate the meanings of these words when used outside of their respective contexts. Nonetheless, the senses in which these words were generally used are as follows:

* [*Agápe*](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agape) (ἀγάπη *agápē*[[1]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love" \l "cite_note-1" \t "_blank)) means "love: esp. charity; the love of God for man and of man for God."[[2]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love#cite_note-LiddellScott2010-2) *Agape* is used in ancient texts to denote feelings for one's children and the feelings for a spouse, and it was also used to refer to a [love feast](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love_feast).[[3]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love#cite_note-Greek_Lexicon-3) Agape is used by Christians to express the unconditional love of God for his *children*.[[4]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love#cite_note-4) This type of love was further explained by Thomas Aquinas as "to will the good of another."[[5]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love#cite_note-newadvent.org-5)
* [*Éros*](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eros_(concept)) (ἔρως *érōs*) means "love, mostly of the sexual passion."[[6]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love#cite_note-6) The Modern Greek word "*erotas*" means "intimate love." [Plato](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plato) refined his own definition: Although *eros* is initially felt for a person, with contemplation it becomes an appreciation of the beauty within that person, or even becomes appreciation of beauty itself. Plato does not talk of physical attraction as a necessary part of love, hence the use of the word [platonic](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platonic_love) to mean, "without physical attraction." In the [*Symposium*](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symposium_(Plato)), the most famous ancient work on the subject, Plato has Socrates argue that *eros* helps the [soul](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soul) recall knowledge of beauty, and contributes to an understanding of spiritual truth, the ideal "Form" of youthful beauty that leads us humans to feel erotic desire – thus suggesting that even that sensually based love aspires to the non-corporeal, spiritual plane of existence; that is, finding its truth, just like finding any truth, leads to transcendence.[[7]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love#cite_note-Penguin-7) Lovers and philosophers are all inspired to seek truth through the means of *eros.*
* [*Philia*](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philia) (φιλία *philía*) means "affectionate regard, friendship," usually "between equals."[[8]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love#cite_note-8) It is a dispassionate virtuous love, a concept developed by [Aristotle](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotle).[[9]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love#cite_note-9) In his best-known work on ethics, [Nicomachean Ethics](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicomachean_Ethics), *philia* is expressed variously as loyalty to friends (specifically, "brotherly love"), family, and community, and requires virtue, equality, and familiarity. Furthermore, in the same text *philos* denotes a general type of love, used for love between family, between friends, a desire or enjoyment of an activity, as well as between lovers.
* [*Storge*](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storge) (στοργή *storgē*) means "love, affection" and "especially of parents and children"[[10]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love#cite_note-10)It's the common or natural empathy, like that felt by parents for offspring.[[11]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love#cite_note-Strong-11) Rarely used in ancient works, and then almost exclusively as a descriptor of relationships within the family. It is also known to express mere acceptance or putting up with situations, as in "loving" the tyrant. This is also used when referencing the love for ones country or a favorite sports team.