

One obstacle is world-weariness, adult cynicism, etc which blurs the child-self you must recover. If I were a primitive religionist you could reject this (and me) very easily. But I am not!! I am at least your equal, my fine friend...

As an example there is a bad mistranslation in the New Testament - it is really STUPID. The result is that a tense interchange between Jesus & Peter is converted into a mere question & answer THREE TIMES repeated POINTLESSLY. It is even repeated in the Revised Standard Version. It is John 21, verses 15-17.

LOVE OF AFFECTION ?

Jesus asks Peter "Do you love me?" (ἀγαπᾶω). Peter answers "You know I love you" (φιλῶ). → Non-emotion (Jesus) versus emotion (Peter).

Again Jesus asks: "Do you love me?" (ἀγαπᾶω - with emphasis)

Peter says "You know I love you (φιλῶ).

~~The third~~ The third time Jesus asks stactfully & sadly: "Do you love me?" (φιλῶ)

Peter says "Lord, you know everything, you know I love (φιλῶ) you."

There are two kinds of love, ἀγαπᾶω which is the love I call "God" & φιλῶ, a personal & mechanical love which can turn to hate even. When I said "friendship" to you I meant "ἀγαπᾶω" which is outgoing, eternal [ & since it is "God" himself, or itself, in us, it is truly "eternal". ] Happy are the people who know this rare and wonderful thing below personality level! It can exist between two people of the same sex - David & Jonathan or between a man & woman. In the latter case it overrides "sex", "sex" is its conscious servant & supremely natural. Then the man & woman are equals & their association ("married" in the customary sense or not) is a "sacrament" in some old & genuine usage of this term.

The woman is not merely a convenient receptacle for a sex organ and intercourse does not lead to satiety. Alas, this is rare indeed. It can be a young man or woman's ideal, but they usually settle for less.

Here then is the "love" of two child-selves (wise as serpents and innocent as babes) and it truly reflects the Source of the Universe for which I used so obsolete & curious a word ("God").

The English "Revised Version" of 1984 notes in margin "Peter twice uses a different Greek word than Jesus (Not much help to a casual reader!)"

Maurice Nicoll in "The New Man" (Nisiant Street, 1955) deals with it in detail.

The "Twentieth Century New Testament" (1900) catches it & uses "love" as said by Jesus, and "I am your friend" as said by Peter (but this is incorrect as "friend" is merely the wrong use of that word we all make)

(1941) The "New Testament in Basic English" also catches it & uses "love" in Jesus' first two questions and "you are dear to me" as Peter's replies.

Since very likely you do not know this "heightened awareness" (ἀγαπᾶω) but only the emotion (φιλῶ) you have NO REFERENT to "God". You must naturally discard all semantic overtones.

This love (agape) "loves" the personality for what it is, good or bad, pleasant or unpleasant, as a mother loves an erring son.