

Episode 184 - "Epicurus And His Philosophy" Part 36 - Chapter 14 - The New Virtues 07

Post by "Pacatus" of July 29, 2023 at 6:36 PM

[Don](#) A few random thoughts --

I recall that Alan Watts (in his *Behold the Spirit* – his only Christian book, written while he was chaplain at Northwestern University, and accepted as the thesis for his M.Div. degree -- objected to a hard-edged distinction between *agape* and *eros*, which he attributed to Philip Nygren). I have also read Greek Orthodox writers who agreed. The general thrust is that *agape* includes, but is not limited by, *eros* -- *agape* having an added connotation of deep caring for the other.

In the Septuagint, *agape* is used to translate the Hebrew *ahavah* (love, generally) in the Song of Songs, where it at least seems to be tinted with the passion of *eros*. It might have seemed to Peter to be at least tinged with more than "unconditional" love.

And Ignatius of Antioch declared (regarding the Christ), "My Eros is crucified!"