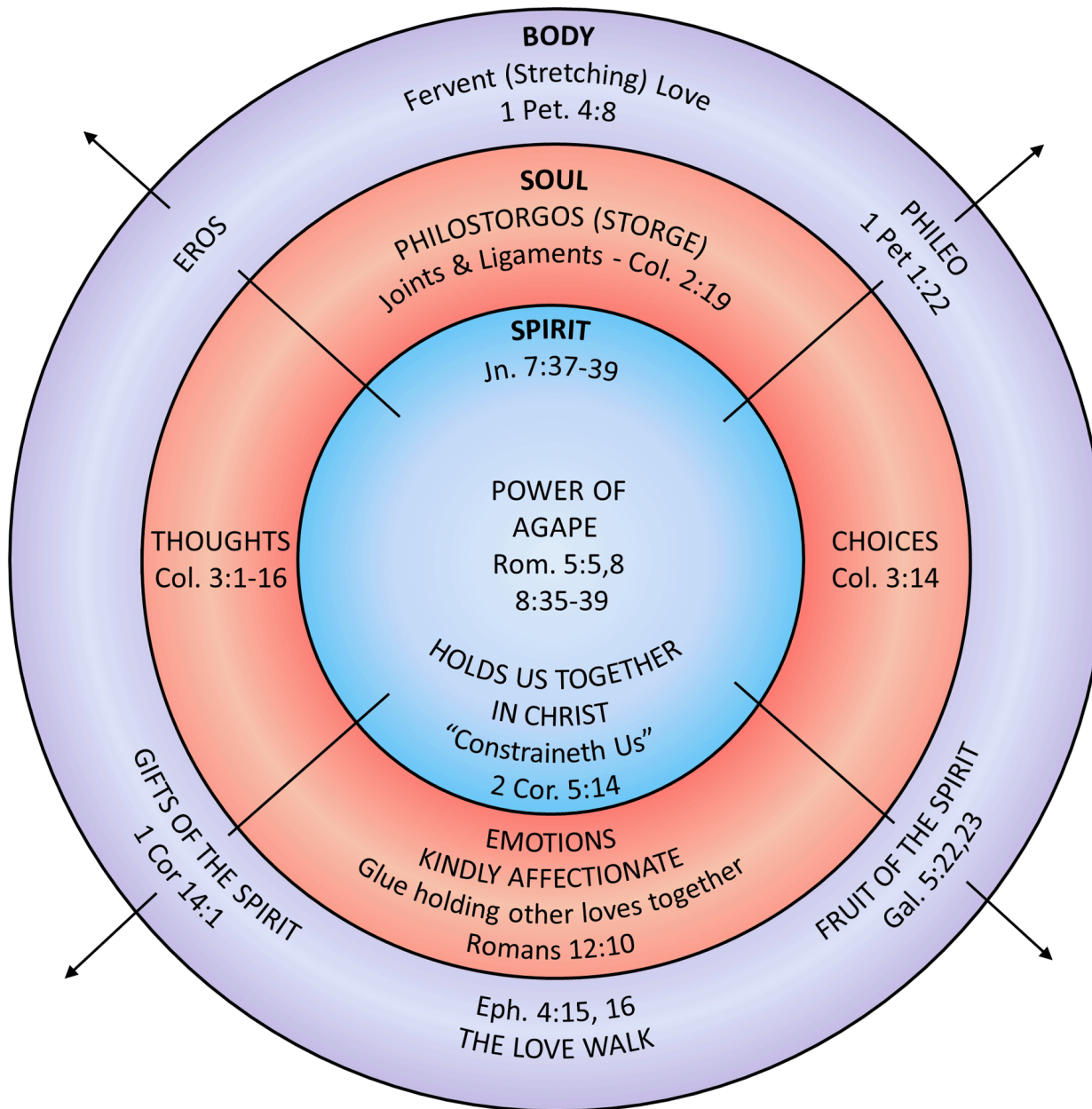


## God's Divine Flow

### Four Kinds of Love



Today, Jesus' cry continues, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37, 38). This flowing river is the blessing of God's love being "...poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Rom. 5:5, 8). According to the old King James language, divine love (Gk. agape) "constraineth us" (Gk. sunecho, 2 Cor. 5:14) means "to hold together." God's love holds us together in Christ. Absolutely nothing "...shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:35-39).

The power of God's love holds us together as the body of Christ, the Church "...holding fast to the Head (Jesus Christ), from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God" (Col. 2:19). Our responsibility is to "...put on love which is the bond [Gk. sundesmos, means "ligament", Strongs #4886] of perfection" (Col. 3:14), through an intentional choice to obey the truth in the rest of Colossians chapter 3, generated by the Holy Spirit empowering the soul [mind, will & emotions] to "...seek those things that are above...put to death your members on the earth...put off the old man and put on the new... tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (vs. 1-13).

Most of us are familiar with 'brotherly love' (Gk. phileo) and 'erotic love' (Gk. eros), but not with family love 'kindly affectionate' (Gk. philostrogos or storge, Rom. 12:10), which is the glue holding other loves together. This kind of love is the operation medium for divine love (Gk. agape) to work with 'brotherly love' and 'erotic love', making them complete. Otherwise, one is "without natural affections" (Gk. astorge, Rom. 1:31), quenching the Holy Spirit.

Lastly, the apostle Peter wrote, "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently [stretching to the limit; strain] with a pure heart" (1 Pet. 1:22; 4:8). As we stretch and strain with one another, we cover a multitude of sins, allowing the fruit (Gal. 5:22, 23) and gifts (1 Cor. 14:1) of the Holy Spirit to flow forth, "...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16).