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AGAPE IN THE ANCIENT CHRISTIAN DIVINE SERVICE AND IN THE GEORGIAN TRADITIONS

Communion or sharing the bread celebrated among early Christians during the holy apostles in the first century and later was related to Agape, love or charity feast.

This act, evenings of love, in early Christians expressed brotherly unity, union of all believers; and the participation in the event meant the unity with Agape that offered its flesh and blood to the participants for the spiritual sustenance.

This is the origin of the parties of love that continued its existence in Christian churches until the 4th century. The communion was related to not only the evenings of love but also with other services of the church, e.g. burying of the dead, infant baptism, wedding ceremonies that always began or ended with the Eucharist.

Agape as the ancient form of divine service is a foundation of the Christian traditions. Human-being should his happiest or saddest days spend in the company of his people: of relatives, friends and neighbors who would share his joy and sorrow.

The Georgian table('Supra') with its toasts is the real evening of love, of praying and divine service.