

Greetings! Praise the Lord for His faithfulness and unconditional love. It is such a blessing it is to be able to come to you another month with His Word.

1 Corinthians 13:2-3 reads, "if I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing."

Today, people often get confused with the true meaning of love. Some think that because they are in church and read the Word daily that they love. Others believe that giving equates to love. More often than not, people give for the wrong reasons, or are constantly in the Word but don't change their ways to be more like Him.

God has made very clear what love means: it's when we consider other people's feelings as well as our own; it's making sacrifices for the sake of others, it is dying to our selfish wants and breathing life into others because we want to see people do well. We want to see others possess the riches of the land that God has promised to all of His children. When you love, your heart hurts when you see the homeless sleeping in cardboard boxes and think, "If not by God's grace, that would be me."

The Holy Spirit dwells within those who accept, believe, and confess who Jesus is, that He died and rose again for your salvation, and repent of your sins. Because the Spirit dwells within, Jesus lives in your heart. If you have the opportunity to help His children and do not, Jesus hurts, which means that you will hurt as well because He is in you. Us loving and helping others is part of God's plan to evangelize. Our love demonstrates what God and His kingdom are like.

Helping does not always mean financial assistance, it means showing support, changing an inappropriate behavior to one that is caring and compassionate. Bringing a hot meal to the homeless person you pass daily going to work because it hurts you to see your brother or sister in Christ hurting and hungry. Perhaps it is removing profanity from your vocabulary and replacing it with Scripture, or taking time from your busy day to talk with a passerby that is visibly upset because you genuinely care.

If we love other people as ourselves, then how should we treat them? We should treat them exactly as we would like to be treated! This is the Golden Rule: "Treat others as you would like to be treated." The Golden Rule puts the law of love into action. This is a compulsory call to each of us today: rise above being self-centered and see things from God's perspective, which is first love our neighbors like we love ourselves. In every situation, think about how you would like to have it handled if the shoe were on the other foot, for example, what would you prefer to have happen if you lost everything and were living on the street, hungry? Would you prefer to have people walk over you as if you were not there, or stop and bless you with a nutritious meal and help you get back on your feet? You have the power to change lives; will you love today?

*"Do not withhold good from those
who deserve it when it is in your
power to help them."*

-Proverbs 3:27

God loves you very much and so do I!

Be blessed,

Nicole



Changing Hearts Through Love™