

Love One Another

“Love begins with a smile” Mother Teresa

What does it mean to love someone? Is it possible to love one another, as God loves us? It's hard to imagine every person in the world setting aside all grudges, judgment, gossip, hatred, jealousy and prejudice for the sake of their fellow man. But this is what we are called to do!

“You shall not bear hatred for your brothers or sisters in your heart.” Leviticus 19: 17

**“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...”
Matthew 5: 44**

Love my enemies? But this isn't fair, why should I love those who hurt, curse, disrespect and hate me? Does the Bible not say: “Do unto others, as you have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31) If a person hates me, why should I care about them?

“...for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.” 1 Corinthians 3:17

It's so easy for us to get caught up in our own worlds, that we forget that **everyone** is a child of God. Every person is loved in God's eyes, therefore all should be loved in your eyes. “Do unto others, as you have them do to you” is not done in anger or spite, for everything that comes from God is love. If we, by our example do not show the love of Christ for all our brothers and sisters, especially those who do wrong to us, then how will they ever come to know the love of Christ? We make excuses why we can't forgive, but the only excuse we really have is that we don't want to.

“Loving others is a spiritual force drawing us to union with God; indeed, one who does not love others ‘walks in the darkness’ (1 Jn 2:11), ‘remains in death’ (1 Jn 3:14), ‘does not know God’ (1 Jn 4:8).” Pope Francis - Evangelii Gaudium 272

We must love one another, as God loves all, for this is the only way that love can grow. Love takes sacrifice and merciful generosity. Love is not in things, land, money or power. Love is giving when it hurts you the most. It was not easy for Jesus to die on the cross, but He did, out of love for us. What can we do to love our fellow man? Can we set aside anger and hurt, in an effort for peace?

***Father of all,
help us to grow in love for one another.
Help us to see your face in the eyes of
those who hurt and distrust us.
Help us to realize that the only way to
love you, is to love another person.
May we become a people of love,
understanding and compassion.***

Amen