

Biblical Counseling Center introduces eCounselor's Weekly guide, to encourage counselors and all believers in discipleship and daily growth.

God is Love! So What?
by Sherry Allchin

Hollywood's portrayal of God's love looks more like the Da Vinci Code, lust - not love, or Sugar Daddy in the sky that gives us what we want. The Pharisees portrayed legalism and judgment rather than love. But how does God describe His love for mankind and what does that mean to us as His followers?



First, we can define love as giving to meet the need of another. John 3:16 tells us God gave to the world the most important thing to Him, His only Son, to save a lost sinner who had no other way to be redeemed and inherit eternal life. He willingly met a need we could not possibly accomplish on our own (Eph 2:8,9).

How should we therefore respond? We love Him back. And if we love Him, we also love those He loves (1Jn 4:19-21). He tells us to love our brothers and sisters in the Lord (1Pet 2:17) and to even love our enemies (Mt 5:44) by reaching out to meet their needs (Rom 12:9-21). His divine love flows through us to reach hearts that would otherwise be unreachable. We, His object of love, become His instrument of love!

His love reaches across cultural boundaries. Jesus loved the unlovable, the lepers, the prostitutes, even tax collectors. Does our love reach across those same cultural boundaries to love a Muslim, a politician or a prisoner? Do we pray for their souls and give to meet their needs as we point them to Christ?

Jesus had a way of simplifying all of life and drawing us to the bottom line. In Matthew 22:36-40 is His evaluation of what is important in life – to love God with our whole heart and then to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. He later gave a parable to teach us that our neighbor is anyone who is a fellow pilgrim here on this earth (Lk 10:29-37).

If God is love, and He is (1Jn 4:8), then we must apply the Biblical definition of love and learn to imitate His love. As we grow into true disciples of Christ, God's love will radiate through us to a needy world, giving us more opportunities to minister in His Name. His love through and in us will transform our marriages, our parenting, our workplaces, our churches, and our world!

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Jn 13:34,35

God is LOVE, so what will you do to reflect that today, even to the unloveable?

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