

October 27, 2021

1 John 4:19-21, “We love because He first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.” (NIV)

I hear this question quite often in the ministry: *‘how am I supposed to love someone who hates me or has done something terrible to me?’* My response is mostly the same. This can only happen by appropriating the love of God instead of trying to love on your own. Let me explain. Our love is nowhere near God’s love because we usually base our love on circumstances or feelings. When someone has wronged you, there is no way you are going to feel like loving them back. Instead, if you are like most people, you would like to hurt them back or at least see that they got some recompense for what they had done.

Herein lies the issue. We must love others in the same way that God has loved us. He didn’t say to you: *“I’ll love you if you change your ways or clean up your act.”* He didn’t say: *“I will love you because you are beautiful or handsome or have a great personality.”* These are conditional statements. The LORD does not place conditions on His love. He just loves you **PERIOD**. No matter what you have or haven’t done. No matter what type of person you are. He just loves you. So what is the solution to loving others the way God does? We must tear away every condition and see people from God’s perspective. We must look past the faults of the person and see the value of that person. God so loved the whole world that He gave His only Son. Jesus didn’t die for a select group. God didn’t love a few that He knew would love Him back. He loves every person, every day, all the time. Be reminded of this today. He loves everyone and so should we. We don’t love their deeds or actions. We don’t approve of their rebellious hearts. We just love them. Be reminded of what **1 John 2:2** states: **“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (NIV)**

Dear LORD, as we allow You to control our hearts and minds, we will begin to experience Your kind of love instead of our own. We can see that people are not the enemy. They are Your prize. Help us to love them no matter what. In Jesus Name, Amen