

August 10, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

John 15:12-13 *My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. (NIV)*

It was rather humorous that other day when I heard someone say on a Christian talk show, 'I would go tell someone about the LORD if He would just point them out.' He has. Everyone that God puts in your path is there because He has allowed it. He is in total control of all things. There is not one coincidence in this life. And then we get this command from the LORD. We are to love others in the same way that He loved us. Well, how much is that you might ask? The answer is **completely** and **unconditionally**. We are to love others, no matter what. That's how God loves you and me. "But LORD, they treated me terribly." And they did the same to Jesus. "But LORD, they have hurt me and done horrible things to me." And they did the same to Jesus. I think you get the picture. We must love no matter what. We must see people like God sees people. They are lost and without any hope. They need the love of Christ to enter their life so that they can have and experience real life.

What would it take for you to love like that? Obviously, you would have to die to your own feelings and desires and submit yourself completely to the will of the Father. This is what this passage really means. It's not necessarily pushing someone out of the way of a car and taking the impact yourself. It is submitting your **will** to His **way**. When that happens, you will experience joy unspeakable and full of glory! You will see that even those who appear angry or hateful or downright obnoxious are really just people who need to know that they are loved. You will begin to see them like He sees them. Remember, He created them, knit them together in their mother's womb, and died for them upon a cross. How can we love them any less?

Dear LORD, please give us Your eyes to see people like You do. Help us to truly love them no matter what they have done. Give us Your love and Your heart. Help us to see the unlovely as the lovely. In Jesus Name, Amen