

A God Defined Love

Random Acts of Kindness



Love Can Be Tough

Luke 10:25-37 (NLT)

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?” The man answered, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” “Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!” The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

“By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him.

The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’ “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?”

Jesus asked. The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

Love Is Orthodox Doctrine

Compare with Similar Encounter

Matthew 22:35-40

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again.

One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Jesus Extends the Command to Love to Enemies and Persecutors

Matthew 5:43-48 (NLT2)

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

The Apostle John Writes About Love

John 13:34-35 (NLT2)

³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

John 15:9, 12-13 (NLT2)

⁹ “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹² This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. ¹³ There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

A Few Hours Later...



*God defined his love by
wrapping it in Jesus so that we
could see what divine love looks
like in Human Form.*

The Apostle John Encourages Orthodoxy

2 John 1:4-6 (NLT2)

How happy I was to meet some of your children and find them living according to the truth, just as the Father commanded.⁵ I am writing to remind you, dear friends, that we should love one another. This is not a new commandment, but one we have had from the beginning.⁶ Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning.

Jewish and Gentile Christians in Conflict

- Paul addressed the conflict between them in a letter.

- Romans 13:8-10 (NIV)

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

The New Birth Changes Everything

- “Obeying God’s truth gives birth to a pure life, but the evidence of this transformation is our sincere, deep love for one another.”
- 1 Peter 2:1-3 (NIV) Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- Jude 1:1b-2 (NIV) ...To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

The “Love First” Creed

- I believe that God is love.
- I believe that God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that the world may be saved through him.
- I believe that God loved me when I was a powerless ungodly sinner and enemy.
- I believe that the first and greatest command is to love God with all that I am.

- I believe that with the first and greatest command, that I am to love my neighbor as myself.
- I believe that I must love my enemies, the ungrateful, and the wicked.
- I believe that if I claim to love God and do not love others, I am a liar.
- I believe that when I see my brothers and sisters in need, I must help them with my material possessions, or the love of God is not in me.

A God Defined Love
Is A Difficult Love
But It Will Change The World
One Relationship At A Time