

I Want to Know What Love Is – December 22, 2019 – Pastor Donna Doult - 1 Corinthians 13:13 and John 3:16

“Jesus loves me this I know. For the Bible tells me so.” This is one of the first songs we learn when we come to church as children. Jesus loves me.

But so many people spend their entire lives seeking to know what love is. It's obvious to me. How about you? Or are we just the lucky ones that we did go to Sunday school, and learned early on that Jesus is love...the ultimate love?

I was recently reading this book, “The Words and Inspiration of Mother Teresa.” She had a love for humanity that was all encompassing, a faith that was equally deep, and a love for God that guided her every move and every thought.

One of the most powerful things that I read in this book was this quote, ¹“I have come more and more to realize that it is being unwanted that is the worst disease that any human being can ever experience.” ²“Let us not make a mistake...the hunger of today is much greater: for love – to be wanted, to be loved, to be cared for, to be somebody.”

I put out an informal query on Facebook asking others to weigh in to tell me what they thought love was. Here are some of the answers:

- Caring for someone no matter what the circumstance, not judging nor critiquing.

¹ *The Words and Inspirations of Mother Teresa: LOVE*. Blue Mountain Press. Boulder, CO. Print. p.19

² *Ibid.* p. 49

- Being there for those around you in their time of pain or need.
- To stand with a person thru every problem they face as well as the good times
- By saying “I love you,” not necessarily with words, but with actions.
- Care and nurture of another being.
- Love means that someone loves you unconditionally. The good and the bad. Love isn't always hugs and kisses, but can mean simple acts of kindness.
- Love is 75 years of wrinkles on my grandparents face.
- Love is a bowl of cereal at 10pm as we smile at each other.
- The last response received is the winner. One word... “God!”

BINGO!

Can't you see God in every one of these statements about love?

- God cares for us no matter what the circumstance, not judging nor critiquing.
- God is always there for us in times of pain and need.
- God stands us through every problem
- God loves us in ways that we may never know.
- God's love is unconditional.

We know that God loves us THAT much, but how does He know we love Him too? The door swings both ways!

How many of you have seen the play or movie, “Jesus Christ Superstar?” Do you remember one of the more important songs was titled, “I Don't Know How to Love Him?”

Well, here are a few suggestions:

Read your Bible. You can learn more about the love of God through his Son, Jesus Christ by reading the scriptures. You will come to know the love Jesus has for you.

Worship Him. Come together with us each week on Sunday; participate in studies of the Bible and the life of Christ. This is a great place to get to know Christ! Matthew 18:20 tells us, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Follow His command to "love thy neighbor." Serve others. Jesus was constantly serving others. He spent time with the sick, the afflicted, the sinners, and the poor. He taught, healed, and loved all who came unto Him. When we strive to treat others like Jesus did, we learn more about Him and become more like Him.

Keep His instructions that are given to us through the Holy Word. In the book of John, chapter 14, verse 15, Jesus admonished us, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). ***IF YOU LOVE ME!*** Following Him is the surest way to feel, see, and know the love of Jesus Christ.

Do you remember a few weeks ago, during our week of lighting the Peace candle, I shared with you a quote from Martin Luther that said John 3:16 summed up all of the gospels "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

THAT'S WHAT LOVE IS! It is Jesus, and He is the most perfect Christmas gift that we can receive.

It's also the most perfect gift we can give to others. If you know someone who questions, "I want to know what love is...you can be prepared to tell them...God will show you! Jesus is love!

And you know what? I can't top that! And all God's children said...
Amen.