

# Loving Others Like Jesus Loves You | BY JOHN MENDIS

Jesus wants us to love each other, but He is particular about how we do it. He said, “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other” (New Living Translation, John 13:34). Jesus wants you to love each other not according to how your conscience dictates, not according to the way the world does, not as long as you feel comfortable, but in the same way He loved you. Therefore, the standard of love toward each other is the way God loved us through Jesus.

To understand this standard of love, we need to see how Jesus loved us. There are a lot of examples in the Bible, but we will look at a few.

One of the ways Jesus did this was to choose to love you long before you existed. Peter wrote, “God chose him as your ransom long before the world began...” (1 Peter 1:20). Jesus chose to love you long before you were created. Long before you were born, He chose to be your Savior. Long before you committed a single mistake, sin or crime, He was willing to forgive you. When Jesus was with His disciples, He demonstrated this love. When He knew Judas was going to betray Him, He still loved Judas. Not only that, He washed his feet. He did the same for Peter, even when He knew Peter was going to deny Him and forsake Him.

What Jesus did for his disciples, He did for you and me. “But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8). God, through

Jesus, showed His great love, while we were of no use to Him whatsoever, while we were not deserving, while we were rebelling. Jesus not only told us He loves us, He showed His great love by taking the punishment for our sins (Isaiah 53:6). Such is the love of Christ, the standard of His love, the magnitude of His love. Only when you understand this standard of love, can you do the same for each other. Paul wrote, “Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others” (Colossians 3:13).

You can forgive one another, and have a forgiving spirit, not because they are deserving, but because Jesus loved you, made allowance for your sins, and forgave your past when you repented. When we forgive others the same way He did, we become just like Jesus.

Another way Jesus loved you was by accepting you just as you are. Ellen White wrote, “Whatever may have been your past experience, however discouraging your present circumstances, if you will come to Jesus just as you are, weak, helpless, and despairing, our compassionate Savior will meet you a great way off, and will throw about you His arms of love and His robe of righteousness.” (God’s Amazing Grace, 8).

Jesus accepted you with all your guilt, imperfections, past mistakes. It doesn’t mean He approved everything you did, but He accepted you completely. He did this to show His love, help you, forgive you and change you to be like Him, but first, He accepted you

**Jesus accepted  
you with all  
your guilt,  
imperfections,  
past mistakes.  
It doesn’t mean  
He approved  
everything you  
did, but He  
accepted you  
completely.**

**If we haven't received God's love through Jesus and if we don't understand how God loved us through Jesus, we can't love others in the same way Jesus did.**

just as you are. When you know God accepted you completely, you can do the same for others. "Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory" (Romans 15:7). This doesn't mean you approve everything everybody does, but you accept them in the same way Christ accepted you. When we accept others the same way He did, we become like Jesus.

There are other ways Jesus loved you, but here's my final point. He loved you by extremely valuing you. Jesus said you are very valuable to Him. "And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows" (Luke 12:7).

Two things make something valuable:

First, value depends on who made it.

Second, value depends on the price someone will pay.

You are extremely valuable because you are not an accident, but the Almighty God Himself fashioned you. "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago" (Ephesians 2:10). You are extremely valuable because you are His masterpiece. You are also valuable because of the price Jesus paid. "For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God" (1 Peter 1:18–19).

You are valuable to God because Jesus valued you more than His life. That was the price He was willing to pay for you. Because Jesus did this for you, you can value and esteem others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3). When we do, we become like Jesus. The reason why we can love others is because He loved us first. "We love each other because He loved us first" (1 John 4:19).

Therefore, the secret to loving others is receiving God's love. If we haven't received

God's love through Jesus and if we don't understand how God loved us through Jesus, we can't love others in the same way Jesus did. How can we give something we don't have and haven't received? The Bible is clear, apart from Christ "our heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9).

We hear very often from our pulpits telling people to put faith into action, love each other, serve each other, be kind to one another, but telling people to do so without telling them they are loved, accepted, forgiven, valued, empowered is like telling people to transfer money without depositing money in their account. But when you are secure in God's love, you will start making allowance for people's mistakes. You will be more patient, forgiving, kind, bearing with one another. You will increasingly show grace and mercy to one another because God did the same for you.

The key to obeying Jesus's command to love others the same way He did is for you to be secure in His love and grace. And of course, all this becomes possible, because we are in Christ and Christ is in us. When He is in us and we are in Him, He will come out in our attitudes, actions, and words. ■

---

**John Mendis** was a member of the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist church in Sri Lanka, before moving to Winnipeg, Canada, where he is a financial planner.