

Contagious Love - Oct. 14, 2020

Covid-19 is contagious. Spread fast: 1/9 - 59, Wuhan. 1/31 - 9800
Trump - 10/2 =26; 10/7 =34. 10/9 - 36,706,213 globally

The message of Jesus' love should be contagious.

John 17:20-23 - "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one — I in them and you in me —so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Ways to make Jesus' Love Contagious:

① **Build Unity** (Our differences don't make us not get along)

We have common ground to unite: Love.

Unite: Bring together to form a whole; for common purpose.

RBG - "You can disagree without being disagreeable"

"Reacting in anger or annoyance will not advance one's ability to persuade"

If Christians follow the **Prince of Peace**, why such conflict?

Jesus was Peace. "Blessed are the peacemakers"

— Born - "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14)

— Left - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. (John 14:27)

Rom. 12:18 - "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

② **Show love to Know love**

We were created with skills to use for God. All can show love!

Eph. 2:10 (Good News Translation) - "God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do."

Theodore Roosevelt - "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

Deeds allow us to connect & then unite.

Do good deeds even to your enemies:

Rom 12:19-20 - "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.'"

It's quote from O.T. - **Proverbs 25:21-22** - "If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you."

Put coals in empty container to keep hearth fire alive.

❖ **Meet someone's needs to allow them to meet the love of God.**

Show love to Know love.

Don't think its hard to be a Christian? Not living it right!

Gal. 6:9-10 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

⊕ **Our Mess is our Message - & it helps others know God.**

Every trial we go thru provides a connection to others. Our difficulties dissolve our differences. We all experience ...

You are unique; can touch lives nobody else can touch.

Mark 5:19 - "Go home to your own people & tell them how much the Lord has done for you & how He has had mercy on you."

God works thru imperfect people to share a perfect Love.

It ought to be more contagious than a virus.

Song of the Week - "Nobody" by Casting Crowns