

How to Love

1 John 2:15-17

How to love seems to be that elusive state we all search for but struggle achieving and maintaining in our lives. In a world of violence, -isms, hunger, pain, hurt it is hard to learn how to love when it seems our primary way of living is to stay safe and survive. In fact, it seems that the more time we spend with those we say we love – the less love we feel and the less we act in loving ways. Can you relate? Have you felt that love is challenging at this time? Have you felt it is difficult to show and be love to yourself and others?

In today's scripture it is clear in the verses that how to love is not a worldly action or behavior it is a Godly action and behavior. How to love another is probably one of the most complicated actions, emotions, experiences, and concepts in this world. Myriad books have been written on how to love including the famous *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman. Take a moment and think how the word love has affected you – excitement, heart break, feeling complete, lonely, confusion, happy and joyful, etc.

But yet how to love is at the forefront of our lives – songs, commercials, movies – we are constantly searching for how to love, expecting it and yet forever only providing it to certain people at certain times – it is the greatest focus and search of our lives – and the greatest disappointment and cause of grief we can ever experience. Can you relate?

The scripture reminds us that love that is motivated by the *flesh, eyes and riches* is the love of the world not of God. God's love is a love that is unconditional by seeing perfection in each of us just as we are. To learn the ways of God's love the scripture reminds us that we need to live life humbly.

Where do you not love humbly and let pride take over? How often do you need to win in your arguments? How often do you not feel heard and feel unimportant and let your pain and hurt overtake you? How to love like the world is easy how to love like God is the call of a Christian. It is difficult and an area that I fail at often and yet I have an opportunity in those times I feel hurt to love the other through humility without expecting anything in return. It is hard to love Godly and not worldly. The choice is yours in every moment of your day.

Lord, God. Jesus – help me to be love to others the way you love me. Help me to love myself knowing you love me just the way I am. Lord, guide me to be humble in times pain and hurt overtake me and I am unable to love other's in unconditional ways. Help me to give you the pain and hurt and to feel your love that never fails. Amen.

by Rev. David Piltz