



The Apologetic of Love

By Derek Kiser on October 18, 2021

READING: 1 John 4

Some have said that love is the best defense of the faith. I do wonder how many people have come to faith because they had a kind neighbor, boss, teacher or coworker. Kindness is not what saves. The gospel, the message of salvation, is what saves; but love certainly opens people to have a conversation with you. I often ask the students, "Can your friends tell there is something different about you?" Can they see our love for our friends at church and for them? Can others around us truly see we love fellow believers differently in such a way that they want that level of community; they want someone to live life with like we have in other believers? Can people who know us tell we love them differently? Are we kind to others?

Verses 10-11 of this passage set up a commandment and a motivation for love. How do we know what love is? Verse 10 answers this well. We have seen love in Jesus Christ and in God sending his Son to die in our place. The cross is an example of love that can never be undone. I see what Christ has done for me and His love shows me how to love, but it also motivates me. In verse 11 we see the commandment if God has loved us, sent his Son to die for us then "we ought to love one another." The logical and expected outcome of the great love that has been shown to us is to share that love with others.

What are some practical ways today you can love others? It starts with thinking about others. It could be a smile, a hug, buying them a coffee or their favorite candy. It could be sending them an encouraging note via email or text. Will love save anyone on its own, no, but it might open the door for a conversation that the gospel can. It might make that friend say, "You are different. Tell me why you are so nice." Then you can explain you know love because God in Jesus showed you love first.

PRAYER: God, help me see others around me and love them. Help me find ways to practically love others.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 John 5

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