

THE GIFT ONLY GOD CAN GIVE

1 Thessalonians 4:9 ... "But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love on another."

Although we have spoken recently on this page about love, we have not covered the subject perhaps as much as we should. People around the world today are asking, "Why can't we love one another more?" If you are a committed follower of Christ, you should know the answer to that question. But, if you are not a Christian, the answer may not be clear to you. Here's why.

There is no source for genuine, authentic love other than God. You cannot buy it in a store or acquire it from a self-help book. You cannot create genuine love in your own mind. Satan has no love toward you or to share with you, so you also cannot obtain it from him. Many times, the "love" a young boy feels for a young girl, is not love that comes from God; it is a purely emotional feeling conceived in the mind of one person for another. And, age has nothing to do with it. Even senior citizens can "fall in love" with one another. What matters is their source of love.

A believer has in his or her resource kit, an authentic love from God to share with others. We have spoken before about blessings, and how God blesses us so we can bless others. The same principle applies to love. God loves us so we can love others. Without a relationship with God, your ability to love another person is limited to a form of fondness, which is far short of true love. A person who rejects Christ and serves the enemy instead, does not have a source of genuine love to share with others. Today's verse shows us that brotherly love is something we have for others through what God has demonstrated to us.

Do you have the answer to our first question now? The reason people in our society cannot love one another more and avoid conflict, wars and personal attacks, is because most of the world does not have a relationship with God, who is the source of love. They cannot give what they do not have. If you are waiting for love to overwhelm the world and save it from destruction, you will die waiting. That is not God's plan. God loves his creation, but he also reveals that few will live for him and find their way to eternal peace in his embrace. Many who profess to love others, are deceiving themselves and us. Unless they have a personal relationship with God, they have no genuine love to share and have never experienced the true love that comes from God.

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