

YOUR STORY

- ▶ **What are some changes God has made in you since you became a Christian?**
- ▶ **When was a time when you were able to love someone and the only explanation for that love was the work of Christ within you?**
- ▶ **How does the reality of Christ's right standing with God, which has been given to you, change how you think about loving others?**
- ▶ **What are some practical ways you can love others according to the love you have been given?**

YOUR MISSION

Head

It only takes one difficult relationship to see how the love we are called to exhibit is not something we can build up on our own. Loving others like Christ loved us can only be done with supernatural power. This is why nonbelievers are unable to truly display the fruit of love. Why? First, the power of the Holy Spirit is not within them. And second, true and genuine love seeks for others to be happy in God, the source of all love. Thus, the call to love is a calling they can never carry out.

- ▶ **How does the world's love differ and fall short of God's love?**
- ▶ **Why should love always seek to lead people to the source of love—God?**

Heart

Remember the story of Cain and Abel? Both made a sacrifice yet God only accepted Abel's as righteous. Abel is listed in the hall of faith, which says Abel's sacrifice was a more acceptable sacrifice because of his faith (Heb. 11:4). Since we know our salvation is never by the works we do but by faith (Eph. 2:8-9), we must assume that though Cain and Abel both obediently sacrificed, only one did so with the undercurrent of faith: Abel. Cain's offering was given without heart, without faith, and without love.

- ▶ **What most often prevents you from showing love to others?**
- ▶ **How does the Bible's teaching on love challenge the way you previously viewed it?**

Hands

Body How do we love others with God's love? Here are five actions to consider as we strive to show the world around us the love of Christ.

1. Pray: Regardless of age or ministry training, we can all pray.
2. Pay attention: We don't need to look too far to know people with needs.
3. Share the gospel: As we seek to minister to those around us, we should be a continual source of gospel truth.
4. Provide for those who are where you cannot be: Get involved by supporting missionaries and organizations who are sharing Jesus' love with the nations.
5. Share the needs with others: As you see needs, pray for them and provide for them, but don't forget to tell others too. Invite others to get involved in the act of love.

- ▶ **Which of these actions comes most natural to you?**
- ▶ **Which of these is the best next step for you to work toward?**