

THAT OTHERS MAY SEE JESUS

*"A new command I give you: love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you
love one another."
John 13:34-35*

REFLECTION

The late Rev Dr Billy Graham mentioned that the Bible is God's "love letter" to us. In it, God not only tells us that He loves us but also shows how He loves us. When asked by the Pharisee what the greatest commandment is, Jesus replied, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself."* (Matthew 22:37-39)

It's easier to like or love the people who are likeable and lovable. But to love even those we don't see eye to eye with or share common values or perspective? That is always a challenge for me. So how do I love someone who is so different from me? I used to tell myself, "No way I can love THAT person; he/she is so irritating!" BUT God has over the years taught me many lessons about loving others.

First, He reminded me that the person is also a child of God who has acknowledged Jesus as his/her personal Lord and Saviour. Second, I am reminded that perhaps in the eyes of others, I MIGHT be as irritating or obnoxious too and yet, others would still love and accept me. Third, I've heard stories of pre-believing friends who questioned how we could call ourselves Christians when we are so judgmental or critical of others and it made me wonder if I had been a true disciple of Christ.

All these set me thinking about the kind of witness I am to those I meet. It might not be people I know but I have learnt that every action done out of love for others catches attention! We often think that our pre-believing friends are not Christians because of the hardness of their hearts or stubborn mind-set. But perhaps they choose not to be Christians because of what they see in so-called Christians around them. This is a sober reminder for me that I need to live my life in love, a love which is genuine, true and unbiased just as Jesus showed it when He was on earth that others may experience and be touched.

PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus into our world that through his life we experience and understand his unconditional love for us all. Grant us that our actions - genuine actions of love for one another - will enable us with credibility and courage to share with others the God of love we believe in and thereby pointing them to Jesus!
Amen.*

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for peace in the world that is still broken and ravaged by wars and enmity between nations and ethnic groups, even among those who call themselves Christians. Pray for genuine love to be truly demonstrated beyond self-serving policies and relations among leaders.
- Pray for Christians to be counter-culture. The world teaches that love is conditional and self-benefiting. The Bible teaches that God's love is unconditional and others-seeking. We love not expecting favour except only that others may know that we are Jesus' disciples. It DOES NOT mean that we condone wrongful behaviour, but we should learn to speak and correct in love!
- Pray for ourselves to consider the needs of others first before we think of our own interest and to love as Jesus has demonstrated for us. When we love one another, we will inspire others to love as well. Genuine love is contagious!
- Pray for the ones we find hard to love. Name them before the God of love and ask God to change our hearts towards them. Ask for grace to love them in tangible ways so that others may know that it is the Holy Spirit working in us and not of ourselves.

*"Love cannot remain by itself - it has no meaning.
Love has to be put into action,
and that action is service."
Mother Teresa*

**If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly
contact the pastoral care team via:
Email: wecare@brmc.org.sg
Contact: 6592 4011 or 6592 4012**