



THE COLOR OF LOVE

Harmony in a world as wracked by tension, strife, prejudice, and violence as the one we live in today? *Impossible*, you might think! How can prejudice, fear and distrust be overcome when these things have been ingrained in humankind for centuries?

The answer can be summed up in one simple word: *love*! This may sound like a noble aspiration, and realistically, how many people are capable of releasing resentment, hatred, fear, or other deep-seated negative attitudes they may harbor toward individuals or entire groups of people?

The good news is that despite our limited human resources, it is still possible for us to love and respect others, regardless of their or our past or background. The key to such love comes from the ultimate *source* of love, God Himself. The Bible tells us that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). He is the all-knowing and all-powerful Creator of the universe who brought us all into being.

To show us what He is like, He came down to our level by sending His own Son to earth in the form of a man, Jesus Christ. Jesus experienced human suffering and had great compassion on the people as He ministered to their spiritual and physical needs. He became one of us.

Jesus taught that all the laws of God depend on one great commandment: to *love*. Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,” and “you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-40).

An expert in religion overheard Jesus teaching this and publicly challenged Him by asking, “Who then *is* my neighbor?” Jesus responded with the story of the Good Samaritan,

in which He clearly showed that our neighbor is anyone who needs our help, regardless of their race, creed, ethnicity, or nationality (Luke 10:25-37). When we align our lives with God’s vision for humanity, we too can look past the differences in other people to see their worth and dignity as unique individuals created in the image of God.

What a wonderful world it could be if the only thing we saw when we looked on a person of another ethnic background was God’s love for them! It’s possible, in Jesus, where “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you all are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).

We can learn to love our neighbors and do our part to bring peace to the world by asking God to give us His love for others. The Bible tells us that “God so loved the world [you and me], that He gave His only Son [Jesus], that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Jesus will freely forgive you of all your sins and grant you eternal life in heaven if you will invite Him into your heart.

Receive Him now by sincerely praying a prayer like the following:

Dear Jesus, I want to know You. Thank You for giving Your life for me. Please forgive me for all the things I have done wrong. I ask You to come into my heart and life and grant me Your free gift of eternal life. Fill me with Your love and help me to be more tolerant of others, and to see them as who they are—Your unique creations worthy of dignity and respect. Amen.

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