

Love can be a difficult concept. Before I was a Christian, I seemed to lack love. And I know that even other Christians may be struggling with the same thing I struggled with: having and expressing love for ALL.

A reason why people may find some hard to love is because they think of themselves as better than others. However, Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This means that no one has the right to place or think of themselves as better than others. We are all sinners who, without the death of Jesus, would be dead. We would be dead because the penalty for sin was death, and since Jesus was perfect he sacrificed himself for our sins. Therefore, none of us can be called better than the rest.

Now, you might think that it seems hard to grow a sense of love for others, but there is a simple solution. Matthew 5:44 says, "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Prayer can be so powerful. I want you to think of people who are hard to love, and I want you to pray for them. I want you to pray that they walk closer to Jesus. I want you to pray that they will want to be better people. I also want you to pray that you and these people will be able to get along. I learned the power of prayer this way.

There was a kid who I didn't like and he didn't like me. So, I started to pray for him and pray that we could get along. Four years later, we don't hate each other anymore; we can talk and have a conversation and everything is fine.

Now, I want to tell you why love is so important. 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." The reason why I believe love is so important is because Jesus is love. And aren't we called to be like Jesus? In some ways, Jesus is no different than you and me. When you talk to someone, you usually become good friends when you have a lot in common. By sharing the connection of loving all with Jesus, you will live a life closer to Jesus. And a life closer to Jesus is a happy life.

Finally, before I finish this, I want to give you a prayer that you can say every day. "Lord, I ask that you will help me see that I am no better than anyone else, because we are all sinners. And I am grateful for Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. I ask that you will help (insert name(s)) be closer to you and strive to become better people. I pray that (insert names(s)) and I will become closer and have a relationship without hate. I ask that you will help me do this so I can be closer to Jesus. I thank you and love you Lord. Amen."