

April 18, 2024

LOVE
[1 John 3: 16-24](#)

¹⁸Little children, let us just stop saying we love people, let us really love them, and show it by our actions.

1 John Chapter 3, verse 18 seems simple enough, **but is it?** Can we really open our hearts to love everyone?

That is what God says we must do. We should want to give others the love they need. And yes, that can be difficult at times. The challenge is **HOW** to express our love.

Have you ever gone to a grocery store and witnessed others being rude to a cashier? The clerk may seem impatient and has a harried look of disdain on their face. How easy is it for us to forget that it's not the cashier's fault that the line is long. Give the clerk a compliment and a warm smile. YOU can be the difference between their having a good or bad day...Be the smile!

A smile and a kind word may be just what someone needs to brighten their day. This type of love is a simple expression of showing happiness. But unconditional love is what God is asking us to do.

When driving down a street, it's easy to drop a dollar into a beggar's hat and drive away. Really though, to a homeless person, love is a warm meal, a safe place to sleep and a companion to talk to. To a family member, unconditional love is not judging but helping. As God showed unconditional love by the ultimate sacrifice of his only son, we too should be ready to help others however possible.

What if loving the other person or persons is difficult? This is where we need to pray for the grace of God and his guidance.

A smile, a dollar, unconditional love, and a prayer. Is it enough? I don't know but just remember, it's not our place to judge. That's God's job. Our job is to LOVE! Love yourself so you can love others. That is what our Lord wants from us and for us.

Prayer: *Dear God, let us learn to love everyone we know and don't know so that our love will teach others to love as we love. Make it our destiny to love everyone and teach everyone that loving one another is what you want and expect. Make the world a better place for all in hopes that all can love one another.*

Fred and Paula Wade
Wellsburg United Methodist Church
Wellsburg, WV