

May 5, 2024

To Love One Another

[John 15:9-17](#)

“You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask Him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

“My . . . isn’t she little?” My doctor spoke those words when I was born. My body was not ready for this world yet. My heart was quiet and still, my lungs empty and motionless.

I was small, only 4 pounds and 2 ounces, far too small to live in a world devoid of NICU’s and their special care for such fragile little ones. My doctor sent me home to die in the love of my family, for surely, I was too little to live.

Yet God had a plan for me. I believe God has a plan for each of us.

Long before the world came into being, God formed His plan for an eternity of love with the children He would create. When Adam and Eve betrayed God’s love by disobeying the one command He had given them, they were sent out of the beauty and perfection of the Garden of Eden and into the dark world.

Sin is punishable by death, but in God’s compassion, He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for each of us. Through Jesus’ death we are forgiven and restored to an intimate relationship with God, for this is God’s plan for us.

Jesus tells us we are chosen and appointed to love one another.

Our ministry of love need not be grand or impressive. We may be appointed to a simple ministry of praying with someone in need of God’s special touch in their lives. We may be appointed to a simple ministry of helping to feed the hungry or shelter the homeless. We may be appointed to a simple ministry of sharing God’s gifts to us with those not so blessed.

We have been created for love, and I believe God has a plan for each of us. We have been chosen and appointed to love one another.

Prayer: *Loving God, You have created us for love. Open our eyes and hearts to Your plan for our lives, and show us ways to take Your love into the world, for we are chosen and appointed to love one another. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.*

Connie Steward Keplinger
Retired Pastor
Main Street UMC, Petersburg, WV