

Love, Diversity, and Reconciliation

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Love is an emotional and passionate connection radiating from the heart and soul which translates into beautiful interactions. In addition, the word love may have many meanings based on the interactions and connections we may have with each other. In other words, the love for our family, spouses, friends and the like could be considered everlasting, unconditional, or ambiguous relationships, infatuation or just “something you simply like about someone”.

However, from a Christian perspective Christ defines love as the most beautiful and unconditional relationship that human beings can share. This is agape love----the love God and His Son would want everyone on this earth to display.

Unfortunately, we live in a hectic society controlled by quick, impulsive actions that often cloud our ability to think clearly. Christ, our Savior was faced with worst challenges; however, he pursued his mission diligently, healing and helping others unconditionally.

John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”. (NRSV) This scripture perfectly defines love, diversity, and reconciliation as it pertains to the church. It reminds us of His love and ultimate sacrifice so we could enjoy a personal relationship with Him, and in turn, witness of His great love to the entire world. He wants us to be a part of His family and to live with Him eternally in Heaven!

“Are we committed enough to make this world a better place to live?”

God accepts us as we are. When God chose his only Son to be the Savior of the world, God did not say to separate humans by color, creed, religion, nationality or gender; He wants everyone that lives in this world to be saved. However, in order for the church to increase its territory, it must fervently hold to the spirit of a Covenant Love – God’s promise of unconditional love to all of mankind, freely given and ours to choose.

Before we are able to walk in the covenant that God established with Abraham, we have to walk in His love. Love is the answer to all things because love conquers all.

1 John 4:7-8 tell us, “Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love”. (NRSV). The love described in this scripture is not about feeling or conditions, it is agape love. If we love one another and God dwells in us, we have covenant with Him.

Author Bell Hook saw love as “profoundly political”. She said:
Our deepest revolution will come when we understand this truth; only love can give us the strength to go forward in the midst of heartbreak and misery. Only love can give us the power to reconcile, to redeem, the power to renew weary spirits and save lost souls. The transformative power of love is the foundation of all meaningful social change. Without love our lives are without meaning. Love is the heart of the matter. When all else has fallen away, love sustains. (Attached please find my experience of agape love in action.)

Paul’s scripture, 1Corinthians 13:4-8, tells us that

- Love never gives up.
- Love cares more for others than for self.
- Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have.
- Love doesn’t strut,
- Doesn’t have a swelled head,
- Doesn’t force itself on others,
- Isn’t always “me first”,
- Doesn’t fly off the handle,
- Doesn’t keep score of the sins of others,
- Doesn’t revel when others grovel,
- Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
- Puts up with anything,
- Trusts God always,
- Always looks for the best,

- Never looks back,
- But keeps going to the end.
- Love never dies. (MSG)

Finally, reconciliation ultimately depends on the success of understanding and realizing the spirit of the covenant of love --- in all of its diversity. I feel with all my heart that it is God's desire to love through us. His arms are always open to us; He's delighted when we love one another. It's not complicated --it's just a fact!

Bell Hooks, *Salvation, Black People and Love* (New York: HarperCollins, Publisher, 2001)

Attachment: My Katrina Experience