

Speaking to the soul



God's love

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. 1 John 4:11-12

You cannot see the wind, but you can easily see the effects that it has. Equally, you cannot see electricity, but we have no doubt that it exists because of all that it does. No one has ever seen God, but we know that he exists because we see his love reflected in the people around us. The more we love people, the more they will have the opportunity to see the living God.

Tertullian, one of the early Church Fathers, wrote of how the pagan Romans were struck by the Christians' way of life. "See how they love one another," was their response. I would love to think this would be the response to each of our churches, and I believe it often is. People see churches setting up food banks, debt advice services, parent and toddler groups, listening services and many other activities. They are wonderful expressions of love and care to our communities, but let's be honest – people often see something very different. They see churches squabbling over doctrine, worship and buildings, and the last thing they see is love.

We won't make things better by decrying the Church and blaming other Christians for not being loving. We need to look to ourselves and reflect on how we can be more loving. As we listen to God's voice, we need to find practical ways of increasing our love for our Christian brothers and sisters, and then explore together ways in which we can share his love more fully. We don't want to put on a big show, but we want to love. We want to make it clear to everyone in our communities that God is alive and well.

QUESTION

How can you reflect God's love today?

PRAYER

Lord God, I thank you for your amazing love to me. Help me to share your love generously with others in whatever I do.
Amen

Photo - Church flowers

