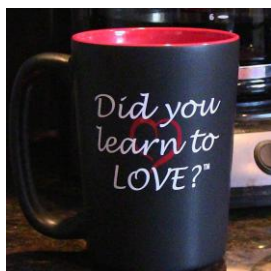


Table of Love



When Bob Johns, a prophetic person, died and went to the Lord, the first question that Lord asked him was, “Did you learn to love?” After that question, he found himself back in his body. And his highest value became to demonstrate the love of God to everybody. Our life is about the journey that teaches us how to love. Our human life is like a preschool for the real life that God prepared for us. Are you learning to love? The communion table lets us shape the lens of love.

Human beings are very limited by their environment. We cannot know all and cannot judge anybody at all. If you judge somebody, you are playing the role of God. We cannot understand the life conditions and situation of other people at all. We cannot. Their different psychology and behaviors come with those different living environments. It creates an empathy gap. Without a heart of love, without the lens of love, empathy is impossible.

The author of *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey, tells a well-known story about an incident on a subway.

I was riding a subway on Sunday morning in New York. People were sitting quietly, reading papers, or resting with eyes closed. It was a peaceful scene. Then a man and his children entered the subway car. The man sat next to me and closed his eyes, apparently oblivious to his children, who were yelling, throwing things, even grabbing people’s papers. I couldn’t believe he could be so insensitive. Eventually, I turned and said, “Sir, your children are disturbing people. I wonder if you couldn’t control them a little more?” The man lifted his gaze, “Oh, you’re right,” he said softly, “I guess I should do something about it. We just came from the hospital where their mother died about an hour ago. I don’t know what to think, and I guess they don’t know how to handle it either.”

Was the father a man without common sense? What was his thought before? What was his thought after? What would you say to the man? How would you comfort the man? How do you see people and hear people?

All people are living in different worlds. The life of people of color cannot be the same with white Caucasian. The life of immigrants, and the stable middle class of the society. The rural farmers and the city dwellers. And we have also political divisiveness. There are children who have grown up without a father. Some of them are thrown into the streets and become gang members or life-sentenced inmates. Jesus knows them all, their pains, loneliness, struggles, and challenges. Jesus loves them all.

We should not assume other people’s thoughts and situations. Nobody makes mistakes or evil intentionally. Jesus knows them all, loves them all! In Jesus’ heart, there is mercy, understanding and kindness.

Jesus died on the cross to give each one of us God's life. Communion symbolizes Jesus' sacrificial love for all human beings. It gives us the lens of love. Not a political lens that filters the person automatically and divides between the enemy and our side. Jesus gives us the lens of love. Its reservoir is the throne of God. Only through the lens can we come to love others a little more. What lens do you have? Let's listen to the word of love once more.

Let's remember some words from the Love chapter. *Love is patient, love is kind, love suffers long, love does not parade itself. It is not puffed up. It does not behave rudely. It does not seek its own. It is not provoked; it thinks no evil. Love hopes all things. Love endures all things. Love never fails.*



In Communion, we relive a pivotal moment in our Christian story that recalls Jesus' most profound act of love: giving himself away. "Take, eat; this is my body. Drink from this, this is my blood... do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." When we take the mysterious communion element with pure heart, gratitude, and truth, your lens of love opens, it can reveal deeper truth of God. It is like what the two disciples experienced on the way toward Emmaus.

When the elements enter our body and spirit, Spirit of love starts to live in our lives. It is the place where God reveals truth of life. So, our hearts are transformed by the revealing divine truth given to us. The bread and wine that entered our body become our physical cells as well as causing transformations by its spiritual power.



I vividly recall receiving the elements with profound devotion when I was a young adult. At the moment of receiving the element, I felt a beautiful, rainbow-colored touch envelop my throat. Although I couldn't see it, I sensed its spiritual presence. The rainbow then began to circle my stomach, expanding and widening, and enveloping my entire body in a breathtaking display of heavenly beauty. Only a full circle rainbow is found upon the throne of God. This experience was incredibly powerful and mysterious. I realized that the element is not just a memory; it's a mystically transformative power that bestows the lens of love and life upon your entire being—your body, mind, soul, and spirit. It's the power that fulfills your destiny in remarkable mercy, allowing you to share God's mercy, understanding, and kindness.

Our Living triune God shares his life with us at the table. Past memories, present life, and future promises are united in a mysterious way. The immense gift of love shapes our perspective and animates our spirit. It dwells within my body and spirit.