

MADE FOR MORE



MORE THAN OURSELVES.

There's no way we can live up to the impossible standard of love and perfection God set for us in the Law.

True.

This is why we count completely on transformation through Jesus. He never died to make bad people better. He died to bring dead people to life.

When asked about the countless laws of the Old Testament, Jesus responded with this: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

When we lean into God and become aware of His vast love for us, *only then* can we turn around and truly love our neighbor. Through Him working in our hearts, *only then* can we live beyond ourselves. Through what Jesus did on the cross, *only then* can we live in confidence as people forgiven and set free. When that truth starts permeating our hearts, *only then* can we begin to love like the One who *is* love.

IN THE BIBLE.

Exodus 34:6-7a

The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out,

“Yahweh! The Lord!

The God of compassion and mercy!

I am slow to anger

and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations.

I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin.

Matthew 22:35-39

One of [the Pharisees], an expert in the law, tested him with this question:

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Romans 5:6-8

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

QUESTIONS.

1. What characteristics of God's love do we see in Exodus 34:6?
2. What do you think about the phrase, "I love this person but I don't like them,"?
3. How do we have a chance at loving difficult people?
4. What hope is given to us in Romans 5:6-8?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?