

How To Love God, Yourself And Others: By Erica Jerminus

Many Christians do not know how to love because they have never experienced God for themselves or His love for them. There are Christians who may have not been raised in a Christian home with biblical standards and principles. They may not know how to love because they do not know God. They may have never come to a revelation or a knowledge of God's love for them. Therefore, they have a hard time loving themselves and others.

Some Christians see God the way they see authority figures in their life. They see Him as strict and harsh and that He is out to get them every time they do wrong. But God is not like that at all. God is so loving, kind, merciful, and gracious. Yes, He is a God of wrath, judgment, and punishment. But He is not out to condemn us for our sins. The enemy's job is to condemn. So many Christians have a false perception of God. They see Him for who He really is not, instead of for who He really is. Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

God wants us to not just know about Him in His word, but to actually know Him and have a relationship with Him. He wants us to talk to Him about everything that concerns us. He wants us to share our deepest desires with Him. He wants to hear our hearts, and He also wants us to hear from Him too by listening to His voice. He is our best friend. He cares about every detail of our lives. He cares about the small and the big things. The things that we would not think God cares about, He does. He has our best interest at heart. God is in everything. If we include Him in everything, we will find Him. John 10:27 says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

Many Christians don't know how to love God, themselves, or others because they do not know God and His love for them. It may take time for a Christian to be able to know Christ and His love and walk in all that God has called them to walk into. To love is to know God, because God is love. But those who do not love, do not know God. God wants everyone to know Him and His love for them so that they can obey Him and do His will. Jesus Christ said in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." 1 John 5:3 says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his

commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

So many Christians do not know how to love themselves. There is a difference between loving yourself and being in love with yourself. You can love yourself and not be in love with yourself. To be in love with yourself is pride and vanity. It is to have a high self-importance. But we do not think highly of ourselves. We are to exult the name of God above ourselves. You can love and accept yourself by knowing your true worth and value in Christ. You can know who you are in Him and know your purpose and why you were created. That is how you can walk in the love of Christ. When you know your purpose and what you are called to do as a Christian, then you can love God, yourself, and others.

When you are in the presence of God, you will be filled with His love and His Holy Spirit. You then can, in return, love others because you have received the love of Christ. You can also love others by stepping out in faith and just being obedient to the call of God on your life. Sometimes, you get filled with the Spirit by doing the will of God and being obedient to Him. When you

obey Him and keep His commands, God can trust you to carry out His plan and purpose on the earth. You cannot love others without first knowing God, because God is love. Without God in your life, there would be no love, just hatred, violence, and crime. But because God is in the world, and He created the world, there is love in the midst of chaos and confusion. There is love in the midst of hatred, division, strife, and conflict.

Everything that is good in the world is because of God, because God is good, and He created everything that is good. He made man in His own image. Everything He created He saw that was good, and it came into existence. But the evil in the world is a result of sin and man's disobedience. Sin came into the world through Adam and Eve eating of the forbidden fruit that God told them not to eat. Why? Because they were both deceived. The serpent, Satan deceived Eve and told her that it was okay to eat the forbidden fruit and that she would not die. So she did and gave some to her husband. That is how sin and everything bad came into the world.

So can we truly love God in a world full of hatred and bitterness? Well, we can love God by keeping His

commandments, choosing to obey Him, and follow Him. So, if we truly love Christ, we will want to do the things that please Him. We will want to serve Him because of our love for Him and others. We can also love God, by spending time with Him in His presence and listening to Him. When we listen to Him, we get guidance and instructions from Him for us to follow and obey. Then, we can better love Him and others because we spend time in His presence getting to know Him. John 10:27 says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."

We can love God by worshiping Him and singing praises to Him. There are different ways to love and worship God. Worshiping God is a lifestyle. Worship is not just with our words, but with our daily lives. We can love and worship God by washing dishes, doing laundry, working, exercising, or taking a shower when we are focusing our minds on Him in whatever we are doing. Everything we do can be an act of worship to God, and it can be done for His glory. We are spiritual beings, so what we do can be spiritual because of our focus on

God while we are doing what we are doing. John 4:24 says, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

We can also love God when we spend time reading the Bible because He is the word. That is how we get to know Him and have a deep, intimate relationship with Him. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us, and He gives us corrections and instructions through the scriptures. That is how we can learn and grow. We can grow by reading and applying the knowledge and wisdom that we have learned in the holy scriptures. God reveals Himself to us through His written word. Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Many Christians struggle to love themselves because they do not like themselves. They do not like themselves because they do not know their true worth and identity in Christ. They do not know who they are in Christ. When Christians know who they are in Christ, they are better able to accept themselves because they see themselves through the word of God. Many Christians believed the lies of the enemy for most of

their lives because they did not know the truth, and they did not know Christ.

Many Christians view themselves through the lies that they have been fed from a very young age. They believed lies such as they are stupid, dumb, a failure, or worthless. These Christians heard these words so much by people around them that they eventually believed them. Those words have become the person's identity. So, now the person has a low self-worth or low self-esteem.

The enemy is a liar and the father of lies, and he wants to plant lies in our minds when we are young children. Then, when we get older, these lies have taken root and have identified us and our character. But we are not defined by the lies of the enemy or by the opinions of man. We are defined by our Almighty, Maker and Creator, Jesus Christ. We are defined by the one who formed and knitted us in our mother's womb. We are defined by the one who has known us from the foundation of the world.