

A WEEKLY WORD

April 28th, 2024

Lois Drover

READINGS: [Acts 8:26-40](#) • [Psalm 22:25-31](#) • [1 John 4:7-21](#) • [John 15:1-8](#)

1 John 4: 19-20 We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

These words from John are hard to swallow. None of us love everyone, yet we are commanded to love as He loved us. In the world we live in today, it is next to impossible to love anyone who hurts us, or does harm to our loved ones.

Yet verse 8 says ***"Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.***

As Christians we proclaim to love Jesus. He is our Saviour, our Redeemer, the One who sacrificed everything for us. The commandment to love our neighbour as ourselves came from Jesus himself. The story of the Good Samaritan tells us that everyone is our neighbour, even our enemies. So how can we possibly do this?

We can't without the Holy Spirit. Only in the strength He provides can we love our enemy. For me the first step to loving someone I don't even want to love is to pray for them. As you keep someone before God in prayer hatred and dislike fades away. Every time I pray for that person I ask the Holy Spirit to guide me in what way to pray and how to keep it up day after day. It is not easy, it is really hard, but God will bless you through it.

In today's Gospel Jesus says "Abide in Me as I abide in you". That's the key to love. If we keep our eyes on Jesus, we can do anything, even love our neighbour!

Matthew 5:43-45: You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.