

“WE KNOW LOVE BY THIS”

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” 1John 3:16

It’s interesting that 2 of the greatest “love Scriptures” of the Bible are both 3:16! Remember the other one? There are many feelings that a person in this world can experience, and many of these feelings are called “love”. But is it God’s love? Men & women have sex outside of marriage and say they “love” one another (the Bible calls it fornication). A man or woman has an affair with someone other than their mate (or with someone else’s mate) and call it “love” (the Bible calls it adultery). A mom or dad spends little time with their children (or even abuses them), and yet say they “love” their children. We say we “love” our brothers and sisters in Christ, yet rarely think about them or pray for them. We say we “love” the needy children, brokenhearted and lost souls around the world, yet do little or nothing to make a difference in their lives.

Romans 12:2 says *“Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind...”* Forget about what the world or your feelings would call love. What does God call love? John 3:16 and the above Scripture in 1John 3:16 teach us that our heavenly Father Himself gave us the pattern for TRUE love. True love involves sacrifice. “Love” that doesn’t agree with God’s standards is not true love (1Corinthians 13:1-7). “Love” that has no corresponding action is not true love (*“For God so loved the world that He gave...”*). Friends, THIS is true Christianity! *“Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.” 1John 3:18*

“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.” Amy Carmichael (Irish missionary to India)

