



“Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy.”

Thomas Merton
Monk
(1915–1968)

In a country that is increasingly divided, the idea of loving others without regard for what they believe may feel overwhelming. It can be exhausting to show love to people who hold radically different views than us. Are they worth our energy? How can we love our enemies?

Perhaps we can begin by refusing to dismiss others. Love involves seeing the value in another as someone who has been created in the image of God. Love is not a mushy, sentimental concept like being nice. Love is a practice. It does not overlook evil. It does not stand by in the face of violence, abuse, or injustice. Love confronts these challenges and calls each person back to their inherent dignity and worth as a human being. With the love commanded by Jesus, “love one another as I have loved you,” we just might be that catalyst for change.

Perhaps we can recognize that most people are doing their best with what they have to find a life of meaning; and to do the right thing, just like us. And, just like us, people struggle with human problems like grief, loss, anger, and the need to feel loved, included, and valued. Maybe, we can see each other in a different way. Maybe this love that we offer not only helps the other, but in fact helps us as well?

If we can demonstrate this radical type of love, we will find ourselves changed. We will focus less on what is being said and more on why it is being said. We will discover we have more patience, more perspective, and more compassion than we thought possible. *That might be the very thing that changes the world for the better.*