

Love That Amazes

In his book, *Christ in the Communist Prisons*, Richard Wurmbrand tells of the time his wife met the man who had murdered her family in Nazi Germany. She put her arms around him, and, as she wept, she told him she had forgiven him.

That is an amazing response! Such true and divinely given love can come only from a heart that knows it has been forgiven.

It is easy to show love to those we like or to those of our own families. The real test of our relationship with God comes, however, when we move beyond our natural feelings to loving those whose actions have shown them to oppose us or to be our enemies. Some speak of “easy Christianity.” There is no such thing. To be wholly like Christ is to be wholly unlike ourselves.

Circumstances, personality conflicts, tensions or jealousies often bring us into conflict with our fellowmen. Some may show they do not like us; some may even determine to destroy us or our influence. In such situations, we must call upon that divine love that lives within us to help us in our reactions.

Then we will love not only the lovely, but also that one who is filled with hate.

As Booker T. Washington once said, “I will permit no man to reduce my soul to the level of hatred.”

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you (Matthew 5:44).

-Beecher Hunter