

A Practical Kind of Love

By Kimberly Sowell

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. (1 John 3:16-17 NKJV)

One of the great strengths of Jesus' earthly ministry was the practical way in which He approached people's needs. He spoke in specifics when He brought spiritual healing to the woman caught in adultery. When the wedding party faced a feast with no wine, Jesus didn't help them "look on the bright side," He suited a miracle to meet their need. Jesus was personal, specific, and practical in His ministry, and this manner of genuine caring caught the people's attention.

Practical love calls for getting personally involved in people's lives. The lost around us need more than an invitation to church, more than a quick answer of, "I will pray for you," they need to know that someone cares enough to be hands and feet to bring solutions to a problem.

What are the special needs of the lost people in your sphere of influence? Is your neighbor lonely? Invite her to an afternoon outing or have her over for a meal. Is your coworker struggling as a single mom? Offer to watch her children while she runs errands on a Saturday afternoon. Is your friend battling with poor decisions and bad relationships? Introduce her to some new friends who will have a positive Christian influence in her life.

We live in an age of skepticism. People want to invest their time and energy into something that's going to make a difference in their life. Jesus can and will make a difference in their life. Let's show them how He has impacted our lives by showing God's love in us, not in word or tongue, but in deed and truth.