

DAY 15:

TO BE ACCEPTING

Psalm 139:14: *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well*

Romans 12:18: *Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.*

Jesus talks about such love in Matthew 5:46, “If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that?” Jesus also reminds us to imitate God’s posture towards others in Luke 6:35-36, “for he (God) is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.” Several years later in Romans 2:4, Paul asked Roman Christians to reflect God’s example in loving those who make life choices that lead to sin: “Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?”

I can’t help but wonder, if God’s kindness leads people to repentance, won’t my kindness lead people to God?

My love for another person is found in my acceptance of them and not my agreement with choices they may or may not make. The kind of “accept” I’m referring to is welcoming them, embracing them, and adopting them into your life. Accepting someone means you love them today, just as they are, with all of their victories and failures. It’s possible to be in a relationship with someone and not agree on decisions. Look at how Jesus lived this out in his life:

Jesus accepted Peter, but didn’t approve of his racism that Paul eventually confronted him on ([Gal. 2:11-16](#))

Jesus loved John and James, but didn’t affirm their desire to destroy a town ([Lk. 9:54-55](#))

Jesus was willing to value an outcast Samaritan woman by speaking with her, giving her hope, and refusing to affirm a history of negative relationship choices ([Jn. 4](#))

Jesus defended a woman caught in adultery, but didn’t condone an inappropriate relationship ([Jn. 8:2-11](#))

Jesus accepted an invitation to Zacchaeus’ house, but when he agreed with Zacchaeus’ confession he was also agreeing that his previous practices were wrong ([Lk. 19](#))

PRAY FOR THOSE YOU DISAGREE WITH POLITICALLY, SOCIALLY AND THEOLOGICALLY.