



The Power of Love

Lord, too often, just when we think we have seen the worst people can do, things get worse. The human capacity for hurting others is enormous. The devastating damage words can do in this day of instant uncontrollable communication is mind-boggling. The many ways people have invented to cause physical harm

to others is staggering. When these capabilities are combined with self-centeredness and hate, the destructive power unleashed seems unstoppable. . .

The only hope is that, in Christ, the human capacity to love is also enormous. Jesus taught that love is patient and kind; not envious, boastful, arrogant, or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). Jesus taught us to love our neighbors and our enemies as well as ourselves (Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 5:43-48). Even more, He taught that we are to love as He loves us, even to the extent that “no one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s own life for one’s friends” (John 15:12-13). Jesus was the ultimate example of love when He showed the world that His love can change everything when He died on a cross for us.

Lord, help us to put your lessons about love into practice so that we can overcome our potential for destructiveness.

This week pray for:

- People who are hurting because of broken trust, broken relationships, a sense of hopelessness, or the results of great tragedy.
- Children and families for whom suffering, violence and injustice, are a daily reality.
- Nigeria where much rebuilding is going on and the church is growing even while thousands remain displaced and attacks by Boko Haram and extremist Fulani herdsmen continue.
- The people in Yemen who are living with devastating war and catastrophic famine.



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