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Bishop David Roller

Love People

We stand apart

“Christian perfection is loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. This implies that no wrong temper, none contrary to love, remains in the soul and that all the thoughts, words, and actions be governed by pure love.”
John Wesley

Love your neighbor as yourself. Leviticus 19:18 (NIV)

Love of others is not natural, not normal. It is contrary to natural law.

The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **Romans 13:9 (NIV)**

Jesus is tearing down the preconception that we are to only love those like ourselves.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:43-48 (NIV11)

Might that God of love have called into being a people of love and charged them with the task of love by giving them hearts of love?

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Confess and then repent because I have not loved as Christ calls me to love by ignoring the lost around me.
- Ask God to change my heart, filling me with His love, so that I move beyond belief and action and begin to love others because that is my identity.
- Come die here today to self, and be filled with the Spirit, so that I can love God and love others fully.