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Heading into February, we see all kinds of advertisements for love. Commercially, the push is huge! Is it nice to remind someone in your life that you love them? Absolutely! We should share our feelings with our spouses, children, friends, parents, and others in our lives; however, in my opinion, it shouldn't be relegated to one day a year.

Is it always easy to share and show love, especially to people we may not have a significant connection with? It might be a bit easier if we realize God is using us as the vessel to shine and share His love with others. We have to remember the source of love, true love in all its forms, is our Creator.

In scripture, we have so many places that speak to us about loving our neighbors. Mark 12 has one of the Jewish scribes asking Jesus a question while He (Jesus) is in a discussion with the Sadducees. Starting at verse 28 "One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?' 'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'"

Jesus made it plainly clear that we are to reach out to each other in love, and God will definitely equip you to do that. We are also given insight into a possible spiritual interaction through our daily moments of outreach, in Hebrews 13:1-2 "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

In a Gallop Poll released in fall of 2024, it stated that 20% of adults are feeling loneliness on a daily basis. Many of us know and understand the heart wrenching, and sometimes debilitating, effects of loneliness. When you are in a season of life where that dark cloud seems to follow, it is hard to be the one to reach out. This is why consistency in building relationships whenever possible is important for all of us. Life is beautiful, but definitely has its difficult moments, so reach out and connect...for your neighbors' benefit and for yours.

<https://www.meetup.com/>

<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/witness-and-outreach-ministry>

<https://www.kfuo.org/2021/11/26/friends-for-life-episode-17-immigrants-as-neighbors-dr-leo-sanchez/>

crisis hotline – dial 988