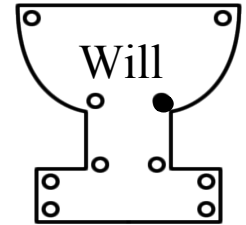


Truly Great Will of God



3.2 Accept Others

Bible Verse: 1 John 4:7

Let us love one another, for love comes from God.
Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Proclaim: *God's love enables me to love those whom I dislike.*

Truth: We love because God first loved us. And when we love one another, others will be able to see that we are God's disciples.

- Questions**
- (1) Why did everyone dislike Zacchaeus?
(he was a tax-collector who had cheated on money)
 - (2) How did Jesus treat him? (with love and acceptance)
 - (3) In what ways did Zacchaeus change miraculously?
 - (4) Which type of people do you dislike most?



Scripture Reference: John 8:1-11

Lesson: (1) **A world lacking in love** – *The Bible tells us that the earth is filled with the loving-kindness of God. However, the fact is that the world has fallen short of God's glory. That is why we often feel the coldness between people and we often hear unpleasant or hurting words. For example –*
“You are so lousy!”, “What you have done is useless !” (Romans 3:23)

- (2) **Human nature is self-seeking** – *A man's nature is basically self-seeking, caring for self-survival most of all. Story: There's this child, who still needs to be carried and has yet to learn to speak clearly. When his aunt asked for the toy in his hands, he immediately shook his head and waved his hand, saying, “Bye Bye!” Now consider – if man were not selfish, how would the child's reaction would be? In fact, the bible has foretold that there will be perilous times in the last days because people will be doing things for own benefit or interest. (2 Timothy 3:2)*
- (3) **To love others as I love myself** – *In our day to day rushing, we often has little time to show concern for others, especially for those whom we dislike. In contrast, the Lord Jesus has demonstrated selfless and boundless love. He even loved those who were despised by many or who were not likable. The Lord said, “By this all men will know that you are God's disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35)*
- (4) **Love comes from God** – *It is God's will that we love one another. “If anyone says: ‘I love God’ but hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother whom he can see, cannot possibly love God whom he has not seen. “Love comes from God, which is why we can only love others with the love that comes from God. God wants us to have a greater love that will touch many lives. (1 John 4: 7-21)*

Conclusion: God is love. His will is that we accept and love one another.
As a result, others can recognize us as the Lord's disciples.

Prayer/Invitation: Pray that today's truths will be written on our hearts in Lord Jesus' name.