



The Power Of Love

Insomnia had its benefits for Mick Jones in the 1980's, particularly one morning in 1984. As he was sitting at his desk, he began reflecting on the previous three years of his life. The divorce he endured and the pressure he put on himself to be successful came rushing to mind, and from these thoughts came one of the greatest hits of the 1980's -- **"I Wanna Know What Love Is" by the band Foreigner.** Consider the words of the chorus:

I wanna know what love is. I want you to show me.

I wanna feel what love is. I know you can show me.

These words were actually written to Jones' girlfriend at the time because he hoped to marry her. However, when asked about this song later, Mick Jones said, "As we recorded this song, I will always remember the group circling up before recording this song and saying the Lord's prayer." Although he hoped to truly love and be loved by his girlfriend, each member of the band knew they had already been shown love in the most powerful way by someone they could not see.

Discuss

Have there ever been situations in your life where you felt unloved or excluded? How did it make you feel?

The Power of God's Love

Fortunately, like the band Foreigner, we are not left wondering what love is. "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NASB). While Jesus was on the cross, he had the option of saving himself (Matt. 26:53) or saving us. In order to save us from sin, which was his purpose (Lk. 19:10), he could not save himself from the cross. We should be eternally grateful that Jesus chose us over himself! Why would Jesus need to stay on the cross to save us from sin? First, we are sinners (Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:3), and sin has a penalty of death (Rom. 6:23). God is a holy God and infinitely just. Because of this, he has a moral obligation to punish sin. God, whose love and creativity knows no limits, had a solution. The solution was Jesus on the cross instead of us (1 Cor. 15:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:21).

The Power of Our Love

Since God showed the greatest display of love toward us that could ever be shown, he expects us to love one another (Jn. 13:35). The new commandment referenced in this verse is not to love one another, but to love one another as God through Christ has loved us. How do we do this? Paul gives us the answer in Philippians 2:1-4, we should put others before ourselves. This is what Christ did (2:5), and we should have the same mindset if we seek for our love to be as powerful as the love Christ showed.

Discuss

What makes the love of God through Christ powerful in your mind?

In your opinion, why would God love us?

What are some ways we can fulfill Jesus' new commandment in John 13:34-35 in our lives?

-Harrison Chastain

