

DEVOTIONAL

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TN o one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

~ 1 John 4:12

You can't see God, but can you see the people he put in your life to love you? God is dispensing his love for you through them. And he's dispensing his love for others through you. The people in your life who don't know God can catch a glimpse of God when you love them.

When John wrote this letter half of the residents of Rome were slaves. Roman culture didn't value life. They discarded unwanted babies like trash. Slave traders would pick them up, raise them for a bit, and sell as slaves or prostitutes. When John wrote this letter half of the residents of Rome were slaves. Roman culture didn't value life. They discarded unwanted babies like trash. Slave traders would pick them up, raise them for a bit, and sell them as slaves or prostitutes.

But when any culture moves away from God, Christians have a new opportunity to love. Christians took in those discarded babies, loved them, and raised them to know God. Did you know the printing press was invented by a Christian who loved us enough he wanted us to be able to read the Bible? Do you know the first 123 colleges and universities in the US were founded by Christians who loved people enough to want them to get a good education? Did you know that for the first 100 years of our country's history

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all the schools were Christian? Only Christians loved children enough to want them to be literate. Did you know the vast majority of hospitals in our country were started by Christians who loved people enough to want to care for the sick? And orphanages, the YMCA, and the YWCA, and the Red Cross? All founded by Christians who wanted to love others.

How about you? You may not found an institution, but you can dispense his love to people in your life. How will you do that today?

Dear God, thank you for putting people in my life who have loved me. Help me see the people to whom I can show your love and give me the courage to do it. Amen.

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