



Show love

Recently I attended a church service where we sang the hymn, “They Will Know We Are Christians by our Love.” And I wondered, do “they”?

Do Christians today demonstrate love for neighbors or judge them? Do we use scripture to uplift or condemn? Are we known by our compassion or our anger? Do we choose to shelter the meek or reject them? Do we help the Samaritan or look the other way? Do we practice our moral values or merely seek to impose them on others? Do we embrace those who are different or exclude them? Do we try to understand other faiths or dismiss them?

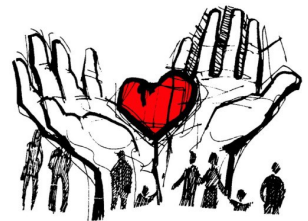
I fear that others do not know us by our love, but by our self-righteousness and our judgment, especially in the public arena. As evidence, church membership and religious affiliation are at a historic low, particularly among younger people.

How can we have a positive effect on the world if we seek to only minister to those we consider worthy and of like mind while alienating those we do not? Truly, this is not just an issue for Christians, but for people of all faiths.

How do others know your faith?

The Apostle Paul wrote that love is patient, kind and humble. It is not judgmental, angry or shaming. It rejoices in truth. It always protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres. It never fails.

Let’s all resolve to demonstrate our faith through love in this new year so they know.



Written by Jeanie Ribble, Southern Shores, North Carolina

- This letter was recently published in the Va. Pilot (1/19/23) but it really speaks to Christian issues today....