

EXPAND YOUR HEART

10

WoL

WORD OF LIFE

«You shall love your neighbor as yourself»

Mt 22 : 39

Under the magnifying glass

For experts in the Jewish religion, love of neighbor comes from love for God. Jesus taught the same thing, and he added that the commandment to love one's neighbor is similar to the first and greatest commandment, namely to love God with all one's heart, and soul and mind.

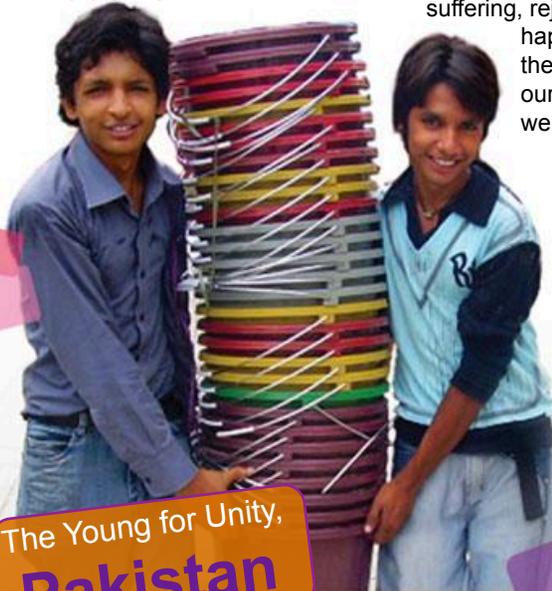
God has poured His own love into our hearts and that's why we are able to love our neighbors. But we need to know the characteristics of this kind of love!

The first thing that Jesus taught us was to direct our love towards everyone. The authentic love that Jesus wants doesn't allow us to discriminate between people, or choose between the person who is nice or unkind, pretty or ugly, young or old.

Our love has to be for everyone.

Authentic love then leads us to be the first to love, and not wait for the other person to love us.

Real love takes the initiative.



The Young for Unity,
Pakistan

Real love also:

> **loves Jesus in each person;**

> **leads us to love a friend but also an enemy:** to do good to them both and to pray for them both.

Jesus also wants our love, which he brought on earth, to become reciprocal, **so that one person loves the other and the other gives back the love.** We really need to do to the other person what we would do for ourselves. We have to suffer with the one who is suffering, rejoice with the one who is happy, carry the burdens of the others and make ourselves one with the person we are trying to love.

This month let's focus on love of neighbor whom **we can find everywhere** - the person who lives next door, **our classmates**, our friends, the members of our team, and also all the people we hear about in the news who are suffering because of **wars or natural disasters.**

This is what happened to...

The Young for Unity, Pakistan

We all saw on TV the terrible disaster in Pakistan because of the floods. **The Young for Unity in Rawalpindi wrote their experience to us:** We are trying to do whatever we can to alleviate the great suffering of these people. Some of us joined with the adults to bring help to 381 Christian and Muslim families. **We took them the vital necessities**, like powdered milk, toothbrushes, buckets, sheets and towels, books for the children, and so on. The people were very happy and very grateful for all we gave them. Even though it is so hard for them, they are not discouraged, but full of hope. It was a beautiful experience for us. **The friends we brought with us on this project were very happy** to be able to do something for these people and they thanked us for letting them help. **And we are thankful to all of you for what you sent us, because with it we helped so many people!**

Post your experience in the Forum:
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