

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

No one can doubt the great love of Jesus. “*See how He loved him*” must have been repeated many times.

*In vain in high and holy lays,
My soul her grateful voice would raise;
For who can sing the worthy praise
Of the wonderful love of Jesus.*

And just before He was crucified, He prayed that we would be united in love. The first Christians did just that. Aristides, though not a Christian himself, described Christians in these terms: “*They love one another. They do not overlook the widow, and they save the orphan. He who has ministers ungrudgingly to him who does not have. When they see strangers, they take him under their own roof and rejoice over him as a true brother, for they do not call themselves brothers according to the flesh but according to the soul. And whenever they see one of their poor has died, each one of them, according to his ability, contributes ungrudgingly and they bury him. And if they hear that some are condemned or imprisoned on account of the name of their Lord, they contribute for those condemned and send to them what they need, and if it is possible, they redeem them. And if there is any that is a slave or a poor man, they fast two or three days and what they were going to set before themselves they send to them, considering themselves to give food cheer even as they were called to good cheer.*” What was important was that in those early days of Christianity the pagans saw a way of life that could solve the problems of humanity. They saw in Christianity a power which they did not possess—and they wanted it.

Genuine Christian love is not a luxury we might wish for. It is vital for our very existence as God’s people.

WHAT DO THOSE IN THE WORLD SEE WHEN THEY SEE US?

Paul