

The Faith Script

CPFI Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

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*"And now there remain: faith [abiding trust in God and His promises], hope [confident expectation of eternal salvation], love [unselfish love for others growing out of God's love for me], these three [the choicest graces]; but the greatest of these is love."
1 Corinthians 13:13 Amplified Bible (AMP)*

[Prayer Wall](#)

My wife, Susan, and I have been leading a Bible study on how the world views how the term "Christian" is defined. The study is by Pastor Andy Stanley and is entitled "Christian: It's Not What You Think." We have learned that in American culture there is no consistent definition of what it means to be a Christian. The Bible does not define the term "Christian"- in fact the term is used only 3 times in the Bible and in each instance, it was used as a derogatory term for those who were part of "The Way" or "Followers of Jesus." Pastor Stanley asks the question: "Why do people love Jesus, but can't stand His followers (Christians)"? Jesus called his followers disciples, because they worked hard to "emulate" what he did. In the Miriam-Webster Dictionary, the term disciple means "one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another"- in this case Jesus. Scripture consistently defines the term "disciple" this way. Jesus even gave us a specific command about how we should act as his disciples. On the night before He was crucified, he told his disciples this: *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* John 13:34-35(NIV)

Jesus wanted His disciples (including us) to love one another in such a way that outsiders would be drawn to say "look at how they love." He wanted his disciples to be known as a community defined by unconditional, generous and compassionate love. He said that this was how others would know we are really His disciples - not by how long we pray, how loud we preach or what we do on Sunday morning, but how "we love one another" (see John 13:34-35).

So how does all of this relate to a Christian pharmacist? Do we, as Christian pharmacists adhere to Jesus' command to "love one another," including those inside and outside of our churches? Are we being faithful to love those we work with and the people we serve? Do those we come in contact with and take care of see Jesus in us? As pharmacists, we have direct communication with many colleagues and patients every day - we are often called the most accessible health care professional. This puts us in a unique position to "love them as Jesus loves us." We have the opportunity to not only fulfill our professional obligations to help patients benefit from their medications, but to show them the love Jesus commanded us to give.

So, the challenge to Christians is to commit ourselves to "loving one another," not just in our churches, but in our relationships with our patients, colleagues, family and friends. We should do it in such a way that all of those we love will see Jesus through us.

Eugene Lutz
CPFI Vice President
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