



FEB 11, 2023

DISCIPLESHIP
REFLECTIONS

"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." (1 John 4:8, NKJV)

Disciples and Loving Others Fearlessly

Are your relationships characterized by freedom or by fear? Do you long to be close to other people, but you also fear being close? Do you want the freedom of closeness with other people, but you are also scared to death of it?

Fear often causes a battle for control in human relationships. When you are afraid, you are insecure. And insecurity makes you try to control other people---and resist efforts to be controlled! As a result, you cannot get close to other people because you are just battling back and forth for control. So insecurity prevents closeness or intimacy and destroys all your relationships.

If insecurity destroys relationships, then what builds them? Love! Love builds relationships. Love expels fear by taking the focus off of you and putting it on others. Focusing on the other person gives you the power to throw fear out of your life. Read 1 John 4:18. God's love frees you to love others fearlessly.

How do you find that power to focus on other people? You start by realizing how much God loves you. The moment you begin to understand how much God loves you, you don't have to prove yourself anymore. Because you're secure in God's love, you're no longer pressured by everyone else's expectations. Your identity and self-worth are in Christ---not in what others might think of you. And how so freeing and enjoyable to live life that way!

