

## US-VS-THEM pt.2

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Last week I shared on this subject, but since it is something that I feel needs to be discussed more in our world, I've decided to add part 2.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Last week I wrote that "Us" verses "Them" is many times rooted in fear. When we don't understand someone or something, we tend to be fearful and then fear-based rhetoric comes into play and that produces more fear and brings greater separation.

Fear does that. Fear separates people. Fear builds walls instead of bridges. Fear leads to isolation. Fear keeps others at a distance. Love, on the other hand, does just the opposite. Perfect love cast out fear. Love unites. Love brings people together.

As followers of Christ, we are supposed to be known for our love for others. Not just those who are like us, look like us, act like us, and believe like us. We should love everybody.

Matt 5:43-48 "You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and on the unjust, too. If you love only those who love you, what good is that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect. NLT

Did you get that? "If you love only those who love you, what good is that? If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else?"

We are supposed to be different from the world. We are to love those who don't love us. We are to be kind and accepting of others, even though they may be different than we are.

Love for others is the message that Jesus taught and the example He lived.

"Us" verses "Them" is not the attitude that we should have or the way we should live. We should love everybody. We should be accepting of others. There should not be a sign over our door that says, "Members only." Our doors should be open to anyone and everyone who desires to enter in.

Instead of it being "Us" verses "Them" it should be us for them.