

What does it mean to love one another? How does that change how you act toward others?

I didn't know Allie, the young lady who was murdered this past week because some fool thought that her boyfriend was somebody else. She died because of something stupid. She died because somebody thought that he had the right to kill somebody that he had gotten into a fight with earlier in the evening. She died because she was riding in a truck that looked like somebody else's truck. It is all pretty senseless isn't it. Her family and friends should not be planning her funeral. They should be enjoying this day, a day in which we celebrate all who are or are like a mother to those in their lives.

And yet here we are dealing with grief because of a senseless death. Often times we are able to rationalize the death as we deal with it and some of the earlier comments about this shooting did just that. One person commented that they were pretty sure that it had to do with drugs and somebody who knew Allie jumped right in to her defense.

And to be honest, the initial incident could have been related to drugs, but that does not change the fact that the shooter shot at innocent people and as a direct result of his actions, a young lady lost her life.

All of this happened because of hate. The shooter wanted to kill somebody, granted, he did not intend on killing Allie, but he planned on killing. This mentality is a long way from our gospel reading for today.

Jesus gave us a new commandment and said that we should love one another as he has loved us. So as we think about what it means to love one another, how does God expect us to behave?

The actions of this community actually did demonstrate God's love this week as over \$39,000 was raised to help Allie's family. That money was given out of compassion and love as we struggled to understand why this happened.

This is just one example of how God uses HIS disciples to bring good out of bad. We were created to be in relationship with God and with one another and those relationships are made out of God's love for us. But sometimes, we come across people who are selfish and don't care about anything except their self.

And again, we are reminded that we are to love one another as Jesus has loved us which means we are to love with a self-sacrificing love because Jesus loved us so much that he gave his life for each one of us. Usually when there is a need, people have no problem in reaching out with a self-sacrificing love.

But as disciples of Christ, we are called to love one another at all times. Jesus chose us and so we are lifted up for doing ministry in our communities and throughout the world. God is using us every day to bring comfort and support to those around us. We are to love and not hate. Share God's love in all that you do so that others may experience God through you.