

"It All Starts with Love!" by Valorie Cole
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American Baptist Women's Ministries
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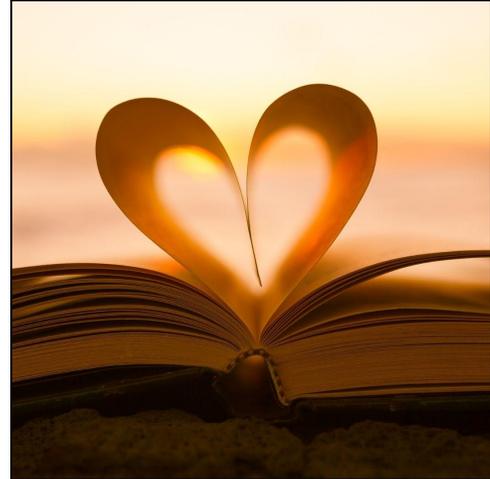
It All Starts with Love!

by Valorie Cole, ABWM President of Indiana

The ABWM stands for American Baptist Women's Ministries. We are American Baptist women in ministry. We are Sisters in Christ. We are bound together by two commands from our Lord Jesus Christ:

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other Commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:30-31 (RSV)



To meet the goals of *Let the Walls Fall Down*, we must first knock down the walls of hate, judgment, and attitude in our own hearts. We cannot move forward without filling our hearts with love...God love...first. There are ways to fill your heart with His love to move forward:

1. Study His Word
2. A Daily Prayer Life
3. Staying Connected to Other Christians
4. Asking for Guidance from Other Leaders that are Living a Christ-Centered Life
5. Get Connected to a Christ-Centered Church

Once we fill our hearts with Christ's love for others, we can move forward. But we are human. It is difficult to love or live like Christ. We are not perfect as Christ was. For us to fill our hearts with only Christ's love for others may take some time. And remember, God's written word, the Bible, is our guide. We need to be open, to listen to what others have to say. But keep in mind what Christ tells us to do. We are to follow Christ and Christ's example. We are to be more like Christ and share His love with others. This is where our Christian faith and Christian values come from; Christ, not from society. Let us strive to live out Mark 12:30- 31 (RSV) as Christ commands us: 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other Commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30-31 (RSV)

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