

What the Bible says



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Within the Bible there are stories of discrimination against people, including stories of enslavement, sexual violence, and considering disability to be a sin. However, there are broader and deeper golden threads throughout Scripture, which challenge these stories and point towards a God whose love is universal. Examples include [Genesis 1:26-27](#), [Isaiah 2:1-4](#), and [Luke 10:25-37](#). Jesus showed God's love by his openness to all people, including reaching out to those who were shunned in his day. He was often criticised for keeping company with people that others thought he should keep away from. Yet, in Jesus Christ, strangers became friends ([Acts 2:42-47](#)).

The early Christians understood that God's Holy Spirit was breaking down old boundaries and divisions ([Acts 10 and 11](#)). They shared a new understanding of the range of God's gifts in their lives. This variety was seen to be crucial in the building up of the early Christian community. It was described as the Body of Christ, in which each part of the body was dependent upon the other parts ([1 Corinthians 12:12-31](#)). Many of the letters written by Paul and others to the Early Church speak of the importance of good and healthy relationships within the Christian community ([Romans 12](#)). Christians are to be a sign of God's kingdom

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and a reflection of God's unconditional love. Jesus told his followers that they were to "love one another ... as I have loved you" ([John 13:34](#)).

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