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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Intentionally Loving People is "The Most Excellent Way"

GARLAND, TX—Christians are commanded to love people they don't like, love people who have wronged them, love evil despots who flagrantly harm others, and love even when they don't feel like doing so, says a minister who has thoroughly researched God's mandates about loving Him and others.

California minister Jerry Corbaley, author of the book, *The Most Excellent Way*, says Christians routinely ignore what God says is most important—the Great Commandment to love God with one's heart, mind, soul, and strength and the New Commandment to love one's neighbor as one's self.

So how do we, a sinful generation, love other people as much as we love ourselves? How do we, a self-centered society, put other people's needs before our own? How do we, a downtrodden group of people, encourage others who are hurting? Through on-purpose loving, Corbaley says. The way to practice God's Great Command and God's New Command is through loving others daily, consciously, and intentionally—the most excellent way to love.

Corbaley proposes that loving people intentionally is a learned skill such as riding a bike, reading, or playing piano. He contends that love also is a chosen behavior. Loving our spouse is easier than loving the person who cut us off on the freeway. Loving our children is easier than loving the repairperson who overcharged us. Loving our friends is easier than loving the coworker who undermines us. Yet God does not tell us to "love those who are easy to love." The New Commandment simply states that we are to "Love one another" (John 13:34, 35). To practice this, we must

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choose to love even those who are most difficult to love, says the author.

The book says the world would be transformed if everyone practiced intentional love.. Corbaley outlines specific areas we can revolutionize through our love. First, we can transform ourselves. God calls us to repentance—to turn 180 degrees from our sinful actions toward righteous living. "When we repent, our spirits are ready to begin doing what is right," he states. Doing what is right includes loving people daily, consciously, and intentionally.

Second, we can transform our communities. Churches, schools, and organizations are filled with committees, boards, alliances, agencies, and teams all trying to achieve some goal. Yet, with all the leading, serving, and planning involved, how many times do these organizations fail because of self-serving participants and agenda-seeking members? Corbaley says we can transform the communities in which we live, work, rear our children, and worship by leading and serving others with Christ's love as our motivation. We are called to disciple those who are younger, either in age or spiritual maturity, and to teach them the value of obeying God and loving others.

Finally, we can transform the church, beginning with the church leaders preaching, teaching, and modeling for their flocks the Great Commandment and the New Commandment. Following these commands demonstrates the value of living a holy life, as opposed to a sinful life. Corbaley advocates that if 50 people congregate with the purpose of intentionally loving God's people, then observers will see "50 different outlets for the love of God, 50 cooperative images of God, 50 voices and testimonies to the reality of God, and these 50 are blessed with the most intense cooperation of their Creator because they intentionally focus on what He says is most important."

Corbaley says the Great Commandment and the New Commandment are not merely suggestions or ideas for better living but are God's commands for His people. They are to be obeyed—for our spiritual benefit, for the physical, emotional, and spiritual benefit of others and for the glory of the Kingdom, he writes. If we do not obey the commands to love God and then love others as ourselves, we will be "annoying nobodies who gain nothing," Corbaley says. He encourages readers to bask in God's goodness, obey His commands, and transform into "pleasant somebodies who gain much" through intentionally loving others.

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