

knowHis.love

Article Submission Guidelines

Basics

- Length: ~1000-2500 words
- Submit to: knowhisdotlove@gmail.com
- Audience: Anyone who has ever felt like they had to earn love, not worthy of being loved, rooted their identity in anything/anyone other than God's love, felt at times that life is senseless and they aren't even sure who they are

Mission of knowHis.love

In his first encyclical in 1979, Pope John Paul II wrote, "Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it." The purpose of knowHis.love is to create a platform where men and women of different backgrounds can offer resources to help build a culture firmly rooted in God's love. We hope to reveal love to everyone who encounters this project, allowing each person to experience and participate in the very core of their identity - that is, to be one who is loved and capable of giving love in return.

Foundational Questions

- How is what I am writing helping to communicate to others that they are loved?
- Is what I am writing making love accessible to those who read it?
- Do the experiences I am writing about present the authenticity and vulnerability needed to build a culture of love?

Things to Embrace/Avoid

- Experiences

- Embrace speaking of encountering God's love in the midst of everyday life
- Avoid only speaking of encountering God's love through intense spiritual moments while on a retreat, youth conference, etc. Even if your first encounter with God's love happened during one of these activities, speak also of the "non-high" moments of God's love in your life.
- Language
 - Embrace words/phrases that can truly communicate to others the knowledge/feeling of being loved
 - Avoid using "insider language" from a specific clique in the Church - boring and inaccessible.

Options

- Option 1: Reflection on being loved/experiencing love in general
 - Lessons learned from your Vocation (single, marriage, religious life, priesthood)
 - Stories of someone encountering God's love or a moment deprived of love where you saw a need to communicate the reality of who someone is (beloved child of the Father)
 - Lessons from the life of a saint or inspiring figure(s)
 - Examine the writings or actions of someone who communicates God's love well
 - Lessons from Scripture
 - Proclaim God's love by examining a section(s) of scripture and breaking open the Word in a way that makes it accessible to the reader
- Option 2: Personal Testimony
 - Basics of a personal testimony - Recovering/rediscovers an identity in God's love requires a constant conversion of heart. Feel free to write on one expression of this conversion or how God's love has manifested itself to you over a period of time.
 - Before
 - Before coming to knowledge/experience of God's love for you, what was lacking or missing in your life? What were some of your needs and what temporal solutions were you trying to apply to address those needs?
 - How have you or how do you root your identity in things, relationships, or ideas other than being a beloved child of God? Be specific.
 - Examine seemingly insignificant habits that led to a distorted image of yourself/others/God

- What kind of media do you consume? (television, social media, movies, music, etc)
 - What do the things that you see/hear teach you about how you see yourself/others/God?
 - Do they build up or tear down the dignity of yourself or others in *what* or *how* they communicate
 - Relationships
 - How have those around you (parents, siblings, friends, spouse) help to build up or tear down your God-given identity as His son or daughter?
- During
 - What were the circumstances of the moment you recognized or began to recognize your true identity as a child of God?
 - Were there any wounds (self-inflicted or inflicted on you by others) that you began to see in your life that were keeping you from receiving/giving God's love?
 - Has there been a moment in your life where you realized that you rooted your identity in something/someone other than God's love for you?
 - What was that moment like? Be specific.
 - What were the circumstances surrounding this moment?
 - How did you feel before the realization?
 - How did you feel during the realization?
 - How did you feel after the realization?
 - Was any kind of healing needed in your life (spiritual, physical, emotional/psychological) that helped you more firmly root yourself in God's love?
 - What did that healing look/feel like?
 - Were the wounds self-inflicted or brought on by others?
- After
 - How has rooting your identity in God's love changed the way you see/treat yourself, others, and God?
 - Once you began to reestablish your identity as a Son or Daughter of God, how did your view of yourself/those around you/God change?
 - How has God revealed his love for you? Be specific.
 - Through relationships?
 - Through the created world?
 - Through intimacy with him?