

We all want to be recognized as a smart person. Everyone gets excited when they can throw some knowledge into a conversation that others were unaware of. Everyone loves to stand up tall and use their favorite words, "I TOLD YOU SO!"

Whether it's at work or play, we love to put layers upon layers of data and stats on everything we do in order to give us a platform to justify how smart we are. "It's not rocket science, people!" or "It's not brain surgery, people" becomes our favorite comments in any conversation. We love standing around the water cooler at work and trash our 'higher-ups' and how they don't have a clue of what really goes on. We all burst with laughter when someone makes the 'obvious' comment that the 'higher up the corporate ladder, the thinner the air, right?'

We live in a very intellectually driven world. Our intellectual prowess is often used as the measure of your life over anything else. If people think you're smart, you're going to go places in this world, that's for sure.

Which brings me - a simple minded guy never accused of being 'smart' - to today's topic.

I was reading my bible and came across something in John's first letter, chapter four that made me pause.

Here's what he said:

Beloved, let us love one another, because God is of love. Everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God because God is love.

It's one of those scriptures that you've read a million times, but at that one moment, it pushes the pause button in your heart and makes you think about it.

I have no idea who John was writing this letter to or any of the circumstances, but it really doesn't matter. It's a pretty basic statement that even a simple guy like me can understand.

God is love.... if you pursue love, you pursue God. ... if you close your heart to love, you close your heart to God. The very basic idea of religion is that there is a God,... God is love... and God wants to connect with everyone.

So the only way to connect to God is through love.

Sounds pretty simple to me.

But wait a minute. The intellectual me says it's not that simple. We need layers upon layers of data and stats to make that connection to God real, right? We need rules and tests to separate the real godly people from the ungodly people, right?

No layers... just love.

It can't be that simple!?

Just the opposite - it can't be rocket science!

Why? Because God want to connect with EVERYONE, not just us middle-class Americans who have the opportunities to get a good education that enables us to create layers and layers of data and stats that validate how smart we are.

God wants to connect with all those people in 3rd world countries who will never read or write, let alone be able to watch a baseball game and understand all the stats and measures they throw at you with every home run.

God wants to connect to the children in the middle east who understand rocket science to mean 'when I hear that sound, I need to run as fast as I can and find shelter!'

If God wants to connect with all of us, it can NEVER be rocket science!

God is LOVE.

You want to get close to God - only through the love in your heart can you make that connection.

I'm not against the intellectual types. I thank God that we have the opportunity in middle class America to obtain as much knowledge as we can to drive our God-given passions for the good of all.

We live in a world with so many people who live in so many environments with such a variety of opportunities. Love is the only language God speaks.

Everyone who loves knows God.

Whoever is without love does not know God because God IS Love!

Keep it simple - with LOVE