

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:39

Lord, I often want the people closest to me to conform to my own image of who they should be. Please forgive me. Help me allow them to be themselves. Help me to love them, to be patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, not arrogant, not rude. Help me not to be irritable, or resentful toward them, not to rejoice when they stumble, but to cheer them toward truth. Help me, for their sakes, to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and to endure all things. Even if they never change to my liking, help me to love them and let them be who they are.

Love consists in this that two solitudes protect and touch and greet each other. Once the realization is accepted that even between the closest human beings infinite distances continue to exist, a wonderful living side by side can grow up, if they succeed in loving the distance between them, which makes it possible for each to see the other whole against the sky.

Rainer Maria Rilke