



INTRODUCTION



Scripture tells us to “love our neighbor.” How do we do that? In present day society, the word “love” brings images to our minds of romantic and/or friendly feelings. We see “love” portrayed on movie screens as fluttering eyelashes, stomach butterflies, wedding dresses, and Valentine chocolates. But true love—*biblical love*—has nothing to do with *feelings*. Biblical love is a *verb*, not a *noun*. Scriptural love—the kind Jesus refers to—is based on *what we do*, not on *what we feel*. Jesus’ love allows us to love and help the unloved and unlovely in our world. We reach out to hurting people because, as Christians saved by grace through Jesus Christ, our love for God compels us to put our love into action.





I AM MY SISTER'S KEEPER

We live in a world of hurting people. In this book, we will look primarily at how Christian women can reach out to wounded women as spiritual sisters who love them and care about them. This book is about real women with real problems. Women today endure many of the same unkind and harsh circumstances the women in Jesus' day suffered. In my own theology study, and after decades of working with wounded women, I have discovered that women suffer from a number of issues, including broken relationships and divorce; unforgiveness and bitterness; loneliness and discouragement; spouse abuse; childhood sexual abuse; children who complete suicide; and loss and grief. These are the issues we will study in this book.

How can we, as concerned spiritual sisters, reach out to our world's wounded women? We can reach out in the same ways Jesus Himself reached out to hurting women in his day. By following his example, we, too, can help women who suffer.

I have designed this book as a Bible study. It is a biblically-based study written especially for Christian women today. The purpose of this book is to show Christian women the vast need for service in our world, and to teach biblical ways to reach out in Christ's love to women who hurt. It is written for women of all evangelical denominations, all ages and all walks of life. The Bible Study Section at the end of the book can be used as a personal study for reflection and prayer, or as a group study.





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My personal prayer is that *I Am My Sister's Keeper* will be a tool through which God can speak to you. May it touch your hearts and encourage you—as a spiritual sister—to reach out to the world's wounded women in Christ's name.

