

The Gospel According To . . .

“Love Matters”

As we enter a new and uncertain era of American politics, we can yet be assured that God is in control. Keep your faith. Hold on to your hope. God is good. And, He gives us the choice to reflect His goodness and His love. “*Be ye, therefore, followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love,*” (Ephesians 5:1-2a). We are witnesses by our love. **Love matters.**

Having faced the hatred of sheriffs in the South, Klansmen and White Citizens Councilors, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr said “I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.” God gave us the perfect example of love. “*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...*” (John 3:16a). Jesus gave His life to redeem the world, that’s love. **Love matters.**

God intends for believers to live out the Christ life which is in them. A way and quality of life that is so different from that of the world and so distinctive that it shines light into the darkness. Jesus declared social and economic justice as an expression of His love, “*To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed*” (Luke 4:18b). God places us in situations and conversations every day where we can reflect His image, opportunities to be a bright and shining light for our Lord. Our love in action must be intentionally tempered with our demands for justice for the marginalized and oppressed. **Love matters.**

Let us be singled out by our love in action. “*By this all men will know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another*” (John 3:34, 35). The world should see not only the love we have for one another, but for all humankind. We must demonstrate that supernatural love in our lives, in our relationships, and in our witness to the world. The world needs to see Jesus, by our love. **Love matters.**

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