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Racial Tension Is Not New! Jesus Says 'Love Your Enemy.'



“But I [Jesus] say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and on the unjust too. If you love only those who love you, what good is that...?” (Matthew 5:44-46)

Dear Chosen One:

Wars and rumors of War! Yes, the news, internet, and the echo of voices are all around us. If it's not Russia, it's China or it's North Korea, or Syria or Iran, or Iraq, or America and its next-door neighbor, Mexico. The truth is, racial tension is next door, at school, at work, and sometimes right in our homes. What? Look again, it's right there and it's NOT new. In Biblical times it was the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites or Jews and Gentiles. Now let me come closer, Black people and Whites.

The Bible tells us that in the last days Nation will rise against nation, and Kingdom against Kingdom... (Matthew 24:7) For years people have been raging war against each other calling each other the enemy, but the true enemy is inside of each one of us, it's called HATE which is a Sin. That is our biggest enemy. Some people hate others for no apparent reason. Many people have died because of the color of their skin, texture of their hair, color of their eyes, cultural apparel (clothing), and for the language they spoke.

I am sure you know of someone who has been discriminated against because of the color of their skin or someone who has died because of racial tension. Today, racial tension is more evident, and lawmakers are acting against it—calling it a hate crime.

For too long the Church has buried its head in the sand like the Ostrich, believing that racial tension will go away. Many churches have avoided the topic on racial issues because they don't want to offend the different groups in their congregation. However, it is easy for some pastors to talk about racial tension if their congregation is a pure race.

When we read the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus tells us a time is coming when **“brothers will betray brothers to death, and fathers his child, children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.” (Matthew 10:21)**

If you have experienced racial tension, I want you to know that you are not alone. JESUS experienced this kind of discrimination because He was a Jew. You and I may not be Jewish, but we can still experience the ill effects of hatred from some people outside of our race.

On the other hand, you may be the one who is discriminating against others because of racial differences. My friends, the Bible tells us that once we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior—we are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus—we are all one in Jesus, if we belong to Him. (Galatians 3:26-28.)

When Jesus came, He got rid of racial barriers, but individuals who have rejected Him as their Savior and want to continue living in sin, refuse to show love to others. The Bible tells us in 1 John 4:16-17 **“God is LOVE, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect...”** I believe, if the church and more Christians start to demonstrate true Love, it will break down racial barriers. Many Christians are more concerned about taking or getting revenge when they have been hurt or faced racial tension.

Love is a scarce commodity in many Churches, homes, workplaces, communities, countries, and it is rarely used the way God intended it to be used. When the world is full of hate, the Body of Christ needs to show Love. Jesus did not die for only His race—the Jews. No! The Bible says, **“For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16.)**

People of God don't follow the carnal minded people of the world; rid your thoughts, language, and attitude from hatred and embrace the power of God, which is LOVE. It is time for the people of the world to conform to the behavior of God.

Let us show LOVE-even if it is in small portions. Jesus says, in Matthew 5:44 “Love your enemy! Pray for those who persecute you!” Love is the only solution that can break down racial tension. So, the next time you come face to face with hatred-Sin-show some LOVE!

The Bible says, “**Hatred stirs up dissension, but Love covers over all wrong.**” (Proverbs 10:12) When do we start Loving others? NOW! Where do we start? Right where we are! Who do we start with? Ourselves, and then others.

LOVE HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH IT!

Oftentimes many people confuse LUST with LOVE. Lust is unbridled, out of control, a craving desire that leads to disappointment, pain, trouble, and destruction.

Love is an unselfish affection and action word whose end result is always for good, peace, joy, unity, and healing.

So, what does Love have to do with it? It was God’s love for us that made Him send His only Son Jesus as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (John 3:16) Do you know of anyone else who had sacrificed his or her life to redeem you or save you?

On the other hand, have you ever done something in love for someone else? Love is an action word. When you display this unselfish affection towards others, it does not only make the other person feels good, but it also makes you feel good about yourself.

People always compliment me about the delicious food that I cook. I always tell them, it’s not only the ingredients that are

in the pot—I cook with Love. Let me tell you that everything done in love always comes out great, looks good and taste delicious! It is most likely that both parents would keep a child that was conceived in love. Loves binds many marriages together even though married couples face obstacles.

Love will make you go the extra mile when you are tired. Love will make you sit up all night to care for a sick child or family member. Love will make you pay the extra cost to support someone else. Love will make you give away your meal to someone who is hungry. Love will make you walk further than you want to go. Love will make you sleep on the floor so someone else can sleep comfortably in your bed.

The apostle Paul says, “**Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices when the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Love will last forever, but prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will all disappear.**” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Love overlooks other people’s mistakes. Love forgives those who have wronged you. Love does not lie, it does not cheat, it does not create conflict, it does not inflict or cause pain. Love does not put down others and does not walk away without offering help. It does not withhold truth, it does not build walls to separate people, it does not hold grudges instead it breaks down and

goes through barriers to embrace others.

Love has everything to do with the way we live our everyday lives. Love has everything to do with the way we raise our children. Love has everything to do with the way we perform at the workplace. Love has everything to do with the way we treat others.

God is LOVE! Therefore, you and I must allow God to live inside of us. When God is in us, then Love is in us. If we don’t have God, then we don’t have Love. It is impossible Love without having God inside of you. NO God! No LOVE! When you say yes to God, you say yes to Love. Love is God in action.

Therefore, if you have been struggling in the area of loving others, then you need to reconnect to the source of Love. Love starts from within! You need to start first with loving yourself, then you will be able to demonstrate Love to others. Yes, you can! **Love has everything to do with it.**

This letter was first written in a prison cell on October 4th, 2019, and today October 6th, 2021, I am sitting at home in front of my computer rewriting this letter. Love made me write this letter to you. I want you to know that this same Love is available to you if you will trust God and give him a try. Go ahead and try LOVE! It has everything to do with the decision you make today. God bless you and may goodness and mercies follow you all the days of your life. Remember to do EVERYTHING in LOVE!

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU ON THE OUTSIDE

Contact Ms. Christian Green, NYC Health Justice Network. (646) 856-0368 Email: cgreen7@health.nyc.gov

Women only Reentry Program: Reentry Rocks Email: reentryrocks@gmail.com

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