

## **Loving All Brothers and Sisters**

From Matthew 12:37-40, “Jesus said unto him, Thou shall love thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all law and the prophets.” The word “all” is used often in the Bible for emphasis. All means everyone.

From 1 John 4:20 ESV, “If anyone says I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he does not love his brother whom he has seen he cannot love God whom he has not seen.” Like “all,” the word “anyone” has no exceptions or is all inclusive.

When we are loving, we are both caring and purposeful in doing what we can do to help others and that means *Servitude...Being a Servant (Doing All We Can Do)*. It also means being very proactive to doing good works for those most in need. In the broken world and broken country, we live in, that means recognizing and addressing inequities and inequalities for people of color. Again, it is clearly Biblical that we must love all brothers and sisters and we must stand up for injustices.

Therefore, I care about young African American men and people of color who fill the prisons disproportionately. I care that women should be treated equally in earnings and in respect, with things needed to be done to achieve that. I care and know there is a need for quality and subsidized childcare. I care about the need for affordable housing. I care about available and affordable education for all. I care about healthcare access for all. I care about refugees and immigrants that have suffered and need mercy, grace, and love. I care about all those different than me, including those that choose committed partners differently than I do, or those that have very different beliefs.

When we say we *Love All Brothers and Sisters*, but do not act as such in volunteering or doing all brothers and sisters, are we *Walking the Lord’s Walk* or are we just a hypocrite talking the talk?

To walk the walk of loving all brothers and sisters, we must walk the walk in standing up in ways to change governmental policies from Federal to State to local branches to be better for all brothers and sisters in healthcare, housing, employment, education and more. We must stand up as individuals and in our churches. We must stand up in leading, organizing, educating and prompting others.

From Isaiah 1:17 (NIV), “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless, please the cause of the widow.” Yes, we must step up in voice and actions for justice and love for all brothers and sisters and for those that are most oppressed.

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