

ALL LIVES MATTER!

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INTRODUCTION

No human race is more important than all other human races. Thus, ALL LIVES MATTER! The three major divisions of mankind into separate races came into existence from the descendants of Noah's three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Shem is the father of the yellow or oriental races; Ham is the father of the black races; and Japheth is the father of the white races (Gen. 10). Adam and Eve are the parents of the entire human race. We learn in Genesis 3:20, "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living." Ethnology deals with the division of human beings into races and their origin, distribution, relations, and characteristics. However, no ethnic race is above any other race. Of the three major divisions of the races, additional races came about of those who intermarried of them.

ALL LIVES ARE IMPORTANT UNTO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

The Apostle Peter did not fully understand that until he received a vision from Heaven revealing this truth. Afterwards he stated unto Cornelius, a Gentile, and his household: **"Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him"** (Acts 10:34-35).

God demonstrated His love for mankind by willing for His Son to be the sacrifice for the sins of humanity. **"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"** (Rom. 5:8). In fact, God foreordained before the foundation of the physical universe His Son would be the perfect sacrifice to redeem man from his sins.

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised Him up from the dead, and gave Him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God (1 Pet. 1:18-21).

ALL LIVES ARE IMPORTANT UNTO JESUS CHRIST- HE DIED FOR ALL HUMANITY

He was willing to come to earth and live as a human so He could live a perfect life and die for the entire human race. **"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man"** (Heb. 2:9). The reason why Christ has not returned is because mankind is being given adequate time to repent.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up (2 Pet. 3:9-10).

ALL LIVES ARE IMPORTANT UNTO THE HOLY SPIRIT-HE GUIDED THE APOSTLES UNTO ALL TRUTH (John 14:26; John 16:13)

It grieves the Holy Spirit when one sins. The following passage was written unto the church at Ephesus: **“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”** (Eph. 4:30). We grow spiritually by meditating and applying the inspired Word given by the Holy Spirit. **“But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen”** (2 Pet. 3:18).

ALL LIVES ARE IMPORTANT UNTO THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD

The Great Commission has been passed down unto those of us in the church of our Lord (Mat. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). We are to seek every citizen in every nation with the gospel of Christ. No one of us can accomplish that, nor no local church of Christ can do so. But if we unite as the entire brotherhood then together we can spread the gospel throughout the world. Certainly not everyone we contact will obey the gospel, but we are responsible to seek opportunities of reaching the spiritually lost. Pertaining to salvation, the Lord makes no distinction between race, social standing, nor between male and female. Hear the inspired words concerning this:

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (Gal. 3:26-29).

The Apostle Paul brought out that in the church of our Lord there is no distinction between Jews and Gentiles (those of other races). Hear his words in Ephesians 2:11-22:

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

ALL CITIZENS OF A NATION SHOULD BE IMPORTANT UNTO IT

A nation can reach out to help the citizens of other nations but has a first responsibility to its legal citizens. Our nation is one of the leading nations in helping those of other nations. It has a special responsibility to reach out unto its own citizens, regardless of

race. Certainly we, as citizens in it, must strive to help ourselves and our family as much as possible (2 The. 3:10).

The inspired Word commands us to obey the laws of the land as long as they do not violate God's inspired Word. In writing unto the church at Rome, the Apostle Paul instructed them to obey the laws of civil government. There were periods of time when the Roman Empire was hostile to Christians and even executed them for being Christians. Still they were and are to obey civil authorities.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor (Rom. 13:1-7).

The Apostle Peter also placed the same responsibility upon Christians:

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men (1 Pet. 2:13-15).

Peter and the other apostles made exception to our obeying authorities when they would command us to do that which violate the Will of God.

Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:28-29).

We in the church of our Lord are not to join those who are promoting anarchy in our nation. The "Black Lives Matter" organization is not actually helping those of the black race. Many of them cheered when five police officers were murdered and seven others were wounded in Dallas on July 7, 2016. There were some citizens also wounded, including those of the black race. Such organizations are actually promoting anarchy. This includes those of the Nazi party organization. If some police officers used deadly force when it was not necessary, then they should be prosecuted. Those inadequate to serve as police officers should be "weeded out." Yet, there are many good police officers who respect the citizens and only use deadly force when there is no other alternative.

If there was anarchy, then no one would be safe! Some in our government would violate the second amendment by not allowing private citizens to possess firearms. Law-abiding citizens would not be safe because criminals would still get guns and use them against others.

The citizens of our nation need to unite as one people concerning its civil affairs. There are those both within and without our nation who would take away our freedoms and outlaw Christianity.

CONCLUSION

All lives matter with the Godhead and certainly should matter unto us.~

Deceased