

Guest Opinion Article First Published in Loveland Reporter-Herald 10/15/2025
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Rage or love, does it matter?

This past Sunday October 5, 2025, I read an article where a gubernatorial candidate was telling crowds to "let your rage fuel you". Many protests today are driven by rage. However, there is a different power to fuel protest, and it is agape love. "Agape" represents one of the distinct terms in the Greek language referring to love. In the Bible, "agape" means selfless, unconditional love aimed at helping others. Agape love is a sacrificial love that unites and heals. We see this love from God through [the cross](#) of Jesus Christ. This highest form of love saves and restores humanity in the face of sin and death. Agape love brings unity and healing, as described in 1 Corinthians 13.

When contrasting protests driven by human rage with those grounded in agape love the differences in motives, actions, and outcomes become starkly apparent.

When Christians engage in protest, our focus and motives should reflect biblical principles of love, justice, humility, and the pursuit of righteousness as stated in Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Christian protests should prioritize justice and advocacy for the oppressed. As Christians, we are each called to address systemic injustices, fighting against practices that harm the vulnerable and marginalized. This focus aligns with God's desire for justice and reflects a commitment to acting in accordance with His will.

The Christian's motivation must be rooted in agape love. The command given in John 13:34-35 is clear, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." The grounds for protesting should stem from a genuine love for others. Christians must seek to uplift those suffering injustice, demonstrating Christ's love through their actions. This love is to be shown by each of us through both words and actions addressing the issue.

While addressing injustices, Christians should focus on promoting peace and reconciliation rather than fostering division or hostility. Protests can advocate for change while embodying a spirit of peace, aiming to bridge divides and facilitate dialogue. When Christians engage in protest, our focus and motives should reflect biblical principles of love, justice, humility, and the pursuit of righteousness.

In our activism, Christians should maintain a humble disposition, acting not for personal gain or recognition but focused on the welfare of others. This humility reflects the character of Christ and helps strengthen the integrity of our protest efforts. Philippians 2:3-4 reminds us, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others."

As Christians our protests should emphasize transformation and restoration, both for individuals and society. Advocating for change should also involve a call to repentance and renewal, pointing to the redemptive power of Christ to address societal issues.

As Christians we are to be advocates for those who are marginalized and oppressed ensuring that the needs and concerns of the disadvantaged are brought to the forefront of societal discussions. Proverbs 31:8-9 call us to, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

The differences between protesting out of rage and protesting out of agape love are profound. We have seen that anger-driven protests often lead to chaos, division, and counterproductive outcomes. We have also experienced protests grounded in Agape love which promotes understanding, compassion, reconciliation, unity, and transformational change. As Christians we are to reject injustice and act in accordance with principles of righteousness, reflecting the directive found in Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good." The scripture further poses the question: What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Lastly, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good", by agape love protests.
